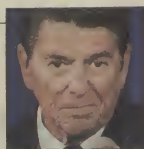


What to do when dates turn to flakes
Gay relationship guru hands out advice
to the lovelorn this weekend at Magnet.
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Ronald Reagan's legacy
Activists critical of former
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Controlled queens
Talking with the cast of
the new 'Stepford Wives.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 24 • 10 June 2004

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

New efforts tackle Internet's sex menu

by Matthew S. Bajko

Hooking up online has become so easy gay men jokingly refer to it as "gay takeout." As simple as phoning in an order for Chinese food or pizza, men looking to get laid can turn on their computers and an hour later have a sex partner knocking on their front door.

The appeal of these Web-based sex sites is exploding, to the point where many gay men no longer feel ashamed to say they use the Internet to cruise. They brag to their friends about whom they have met or share which Web sites are better to frequent.

At gyms and bars, people are now recognized by their online profiles and pictures. New online venues continue to join the smorgasbord of sites catering to men in San Francisco and cities around the world.

"The landscape has changed in the last three years. In the late 1990s up to 2000, people were uncomfortable to say they met their hookups, partners, or friends from the Internet. Now it has become more common so people are talking about it. It is safe to say that is where you met someone," said Deb Levine, executive director of the San Francisco-based Internet Sexuality Information Services. "It is not just for geeks and nerds anymore."

Local health officials are so concerned about this rapidly expanding world — where not only is sex easy to come by but HIV and sexually transmitted diseases can flourish among the cyber communities — that they are increasing their online prevention efforts.

They have financed a new \$100,000 advertising campaign intended to educate gay men about the meaning of various terms, such as PNP- (party and play) or D&D- (drug and disease) free, found in online profiles and used as shorthand in chat rooms. Later this month the 40-piece advertising campaign, featuring the numerous terms used by men online, will be installed in the Castro Muni station.

It is an acknowledgment that just as a 100-item menu at a Chinese restaurant can be confusing, the various sexual partners in chat rooms and different terms used online can confound men when choosing the right person to select.

"The language used on the Internet is very reduced and very abbreviated. Nobody really knows exactly what things mean," said Raul Cabra, owner of the social marketing firm Cabra Diseno, which produced the ads.

The tagline for the campaign is "Just so we're clear your guess is as good as mine" and depicts men con-

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Lawmakers unveil Capitol Pride exhibit

Opportunity for visitors to 'grasp our history'

by Cynthia Laird



Cynthia Laird

As visitors to the state Capitol in Sacramento paid respects to former President Ronald Reagan and signed a condolence book on the ground floor, the LGBT Legislative Caucus Monday, June 7 opened a gay Pride exhibit in the Rotunda just above and used the occasion to remind the community of its history, while saying much work still needs to be done.

The caucus — made up of the five out Democratic gay and lesbian legislators — thanked the approximately 60 people for attending the opening ceremony.

"The value of the Pride exhibit is that for thousands and thousands of visitors who come to the building they will have an opportunity — hopefully — to grasp some of our history," said caucus Chair Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco).

The event started with a moment of silence in acknowledgment of the passing of Reagan — who also served two terms as California's governor — and others who have lost their lives, whether to AIDS, LGBT hate crimes, or serving their country in the armed forces.

The exhibit itself consists of four panels detailing the community's history from the earliest days in the 1500s and 1600s to the present, ending with Massachusetts becoming the first state in the country to legalize same-sex marriage. Mounted near the panels, which are in glass cases, are statements from each of the five caucus members. John Mello, with the Lavender Library, Archives, and Cultural Exchange in Sacramento, curated the exhibit and was assisted by Sonya Cox.

This is the third year that the exhibit has been displayed in the Capitol, under the direction of the state Capitol Museum, a

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While mourners pay respects to Ronald Reagan below, a photographer sets up his camera for the opening of the Pride exhibit on the second floor Rotunda at the state Capitol Monday.

Separate but equal?

Why SF's different marriage licenses matter — and don't

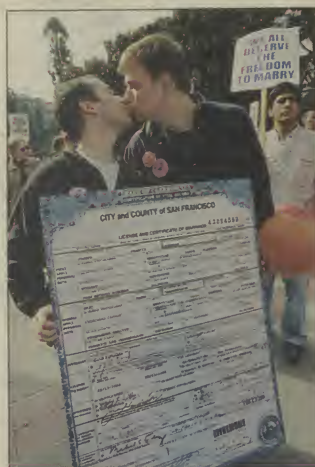
by Zak Szymanski

During the May 25 California Supreme Court hearing on San Francisco's gay marriages, two issues were before the court: whether Mayor Gavin Newsom exceeded his authority in issuing marriage licenses to gay couples from February 12 to March 11, and whether the roughly 4,000 same-sex marriages already performed should be considered valid.

When addressing the latter issue, gay marriage opponents noted, among other things, that when San Francisco changed its marriage applications to a gender-neutral form, it did so only for the gay couples. Opposite-sex couples continued to receive the legally valid forms already accepted by the state.

"Different applications were provided to those who appeared to be of same-sex?" questioned Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno.

"Different applications were provided and different forms were used for registering," replied Deputy Attorney General Timothy Muscat, who was representing the state.



Eric Chamberlain, left, and Joe Wiedman brought a giant copy of their marriage license to a rally in Sacramento in February.

"So the city shouldn't have any difficulty providing notice to those who married under the same-sex marriage procedure?" Moreno

asked, in anticipation of a legal ruling regarding those licenses.

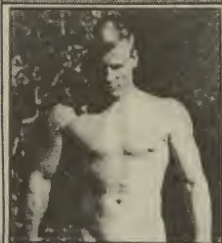
"No it should not, your honor," replied Muscat.

It was never a secret that San Francisco officials were issuing two types of marriage licenses during its month of gay weddings, but

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Castro bar scene set
for new makeover

by Matthew S. Bajko

Joining the list of Castro bars under new management or outfitted in new decor, is Daddy's, which recently changed hands this past weekend, and the Pendulum, where a sale is pending.

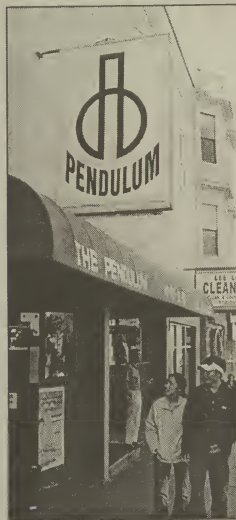
Gordy Boe and Mark Wilson, owners of Trax bar on Haight Street, and Doug Murphy, owner of Moby Dick on 18th Street, bought Daddy's from the estate of Daddy Philip Turner, who died in 2001. Turner turned Daddy's into a leather bar eight years ago, and it quickly became famous for the work over.

After Turner's death, his business partner set aside retirement to become an active, daily manager in the business and ensured that Turner's vision was brought forward until new players could take on that legacy.

In a statement released this week, Joe Granese and the management of the bar said, "We are pleased to announce the transfer. We hope you will continue to show the new owners the same respect, affection, and loyalty that we have enjoyed at Daddy's for its first eight years."

A message left Monday for Murphy at Moby Dick's was not returned.

With the sale of the Pendulum, Les Natali, owner of both Badlands and the Detour, is in escrow to acquire the 18th Street tavern



The Pendulum has been sold.

that caters to an African American clientele.

The bar at 4146 18th Street is right across the street from Natali's Badlands, which underwent its own remodel several years ago and has become a popular dance spot on weekends.

In the last year and a half, the Detour, Metro, Mix, and Twin Peaks have all changed hands. Natali said this week he doesn't expect escrow on the Pendulum to close for another 30 to 45 days. Once he assumes ownership of the business, he said he has no immediate plans to completely overhaul the bar.

"At the present time I don't have any plans for any changes. That is not to say that later we may see that things need to be done and maybe the place needs to be updated," said Natali. "There may be some changes in the future but at the moment the plan is to keep it as it is."

In addition to buying the Pendulum, Natali has plans to redo the interior of the Detour, which he recently remodeled and reopened last year after a legal dispute over ownership of the bar with Greg Bronstein, the owner of The Bar on Castro. The Bar also underwent an extensive remodel and has become a popular dance spot with young Asian men and

devotees to DJ David Harness, who now spins some weekends at the Castro Street bar. And construction has begun at Lalo's, which Bronstein plans to reopen as a new restaurant and lounge called Lime later this month.

As for the Detour, Natali said, "We are going to do a little decor changing soon and make it more attractive."

Plans call for more lighting, new mirrors, removing the front window's tint and downsizing the Tom of Finland paintings that line the bar's walls.

"It has that Tom of Finland look now but people are getting tired of it. We want to try to freshen up the interior a bit," said Natali, adding he would like to finish the work before Pride. "Business at the Detour has been okay. It seems the dance bars are doing more business now."

While Natali doesn't intend to add dancing at the Detour, across the street at the Cafe, which underwent an interior remodel of its own within the last year, the club has applied for a permit so it can stay open later. According to a woman at the front door Saturday night, the club would like to remain open until at least 4 a.m. The city's Entertainment Commission will hold a hearing June 15 at City Hall on the Cafe's application.

The general manager of Cafe Flore, Matt Pausa, also is in talks with the city to revamp the beloved 31-year-old coffeehouse at the corner of Market and Noe streets into more of a bar lounge at night. The cafe already has a new liquor license so it can serve cocktails — it currently only sells beer and wine — and stock a full bar and is moving forward on obtaining several permits to have entertainment in the evenings, remain open later, and go to 24-hour service on weekends. During special event weekends, such as Pride and the Folsom Street Fair, Pausa said the cafe might stay open 24-hours the week leading up to those weekends and could bring in a DJ on the nights of the events.

The changes, explained Pausa, are meant "to increase the viability of the business. It is expensive to move into the neighborhood as a new owner so anything that helps with the bottom line goes a long way."

Cafe Flore was sold last spring

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Araujo murder trial jury requests read back

by Zak Szymanski

Jurors in the trial of murdered transgender teenager Gwen Araujo on Tuesday, June 8 asked for a read back of autopsy testimony from Dr. Sharon Van Meter.

The read back took place Wednesday morning at the Hayward Hall of Justice and lasted about an hour. Jurors then resumed their deliberations and broke for lunch at noon without reaching a verdict.

The read back of Van Meter's testimony provided details about the cause of death as well as whether it was possible to determine the exact timeline of Araujo's injuries.

Araujo, 17, was born as a boy named Edward but lived as a woman. She was beaten and strangled to death at a house party in the East Bay city of Newark in October 2002 after it was determined that she was biologically male. Her body was then driven to the Sierra foothills and buried. Three men stand charged with first-degree murder and a hate crime enhancement: Jason Cazares and Michael Magidson, both 24, and Jose Merel, 23. A fourth man, Jaron Nabors, 21, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in exchange for his testimony and an 11-year prison sentence.

During the read back — where the court reporter reads back testimony verbatim for the jury — Van Meter's testimony noted

Araujo's cause of death was asphyxiation due to strangulation with associated blunt force trauma to the head. Van Meter was unable to confirm or deny whether the strangulation or head injuries happened within minutes or within hours of each other. But she could confirm that Araujo was alive for both of the injuries, based on hemorrhaging under the injuries.

Furthermore, in the testimony, Van Meter also confirmed that the strangulation took a significant amount of time because of numerous tiny red hemorrhages in Araujo's eyes, which were the result of pressure buildup from lack of oxygen. In hanging deaths, for instance, those hemorrhages are

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SJ Pride this weekend

by Zak Szymanski

Many Faces, One Community" is the theme of this year's San Jose Gay Pride, and the event is about as diverse and star-studded as it gets.

The legendary Joan Jett and the Blackhearts will headline the festival on Sunday, June 13, along

with the famous performer Lisa Lisa and comedian Kate Clinton. Local celebrities include the Pro-Latino Itotiani Dancers; Lisa Dewey and the Lotus Life; Orchestra de Soul; and the Cheeseballs.

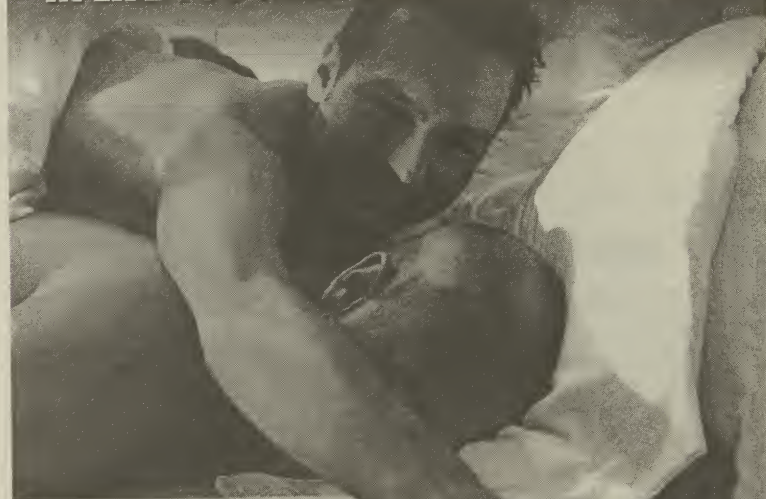
Pride kicks off on Saturday, June 12, with a free "Community Day in the Park" from noon until 6 p.m. at Discovery Meadow in

downtown San Jose. Entertainers for the day include Pansy Division and the Mark Wiegles Band. Pick-up volleyball, bingo, and food and drinks will all be available.

On Sunday, Pride participants and revelers will line up along Market Street at 10:30 a.m. in downtown San Jose for the 29th

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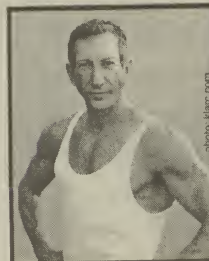
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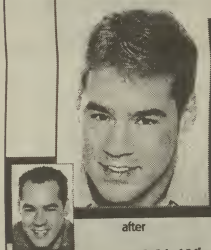
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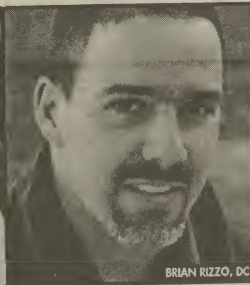
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News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

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GLBT museum opening tonight

The GLBT Historical Society and Museum hosts an opening of its new gallery tonight (Thursday, June 10) and the public is invited. The "Reading Room Gallery" will feature "Queer Eye: The Photographs of Crawford Barton," through the end of the year, and highlights the artist's collection of GLBT life in San Francisco in the 1970s and 1980s. Tonight's opening is free and takes place from 6-9 p.m. at 657 Mission Street, Suite 300.

Additionally, a virtual exhibit, "Dress for the Occasion: The Challenge of Safe Sex Posters," is now online at www.glbthistory.org. The online exhibits will rotate monthly, with July's featuring cover art from The Ladder, a groundbreaking lesbian periodical.

"Both new galleries allow us to do more of what we do best—connecting the present with the profound, entertaining, and even sexy stories from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender past," said Daniel Bao, acting executive director.

The historical society galleries are open Tuesday-Saturday, from 1-5 p.m. General admission is \$4; \$2 for low income.

EDC benefit

"Boom: The Sound of Eviction" returns to San Francisco for a special benefit Friday, June 11 at 8

p.m. at Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia Street, at 21st, in San Francisco. The evening will benefit the Eviction Defense Collaborative and feature speakers from the organization. A sliding scale donation starting at \$5 is requested. Boom, produced by Whispered Media, delves into the ironies and contradictions of the "New Economy" and delivers a potent social critique. It features interviews with dot-com workers, real estate developers, and former Mayor Willie Brown.

EDC works to prevent homelessness and preserve affordable housing by providing specialized legal assistance, financial help, and education about tenants' rights to those facing eviction. For EDC's office hours and other information, visit www.hrcsf.org and click on the "links" button.

'Let them eat cake'

Epworth United Methodist Church in the East Bay is inviting all couples—gay and straight—who wish to make a holy commitment and celebrate the institution of marriage to attend a reception Saturday, June 12 at 1 p.m. The church is located at 1953 Hopkins Street in Berkeley. Organizers will have a traditional wedding set-up, complete with a cake for each couple to cut. Church officials hope to send a message to the community that there are many Christians who believe that a church and marriage are strengthened when all are included. For more information, call the church at (510) 524-2921 or visit www.ep-

worthonline.com.

RCC 'Honors Night'

The Rainbow Community Center in Concord is hosting its eighth annual "Honors Night" awards dinner Saturday, June 12 at the Contra Costa Country Club, 801 Golf Course Road, in Pleasant Hill. A no-host cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception and silent auction takes place from 5:30-7 p.m., followed by the dinner, awards program, entertainment, live auction, and raffle. Tickets are \$105 per person.

With a theme of "We Are Family," this year's Community Service Award will be presented to the Concord City Council and former council member Mike Pastrick for a decade of leadership in making Concord a city of equality and diversity. RCC volunteer awards will be presented to Brenda Butler, special events committee chair; the Concord Farmers Market, a generous donor of volunteers, flowers, and gifts; and Sean Kleen, database manager and webmaster.

For more information, visit www.rainbowcc.org or call (925) 692-0090. Tickets may be purchased online at www.east-bayvoice.org/tickets.

Humboldt Pride

The 12th annual Humboldt Pride Festival takes place June 11-13 with a variety of activities in the Northern California town of Arcata. The festivities include a film festival, family picnic, celebration dance, coffeehouse events,

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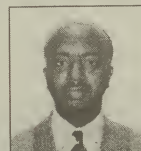
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Judges hear marriage cases

by Matthew S. Bajko

Legal disputes over gay marriage landed back in courts in San Francisco, New York, and New Mexico this week as judges heard numerous challenges to antigay marriage laws.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard A. Kramer ruled Wednesday to coordinate five pending cases that all deal with the state's antigay marriage laws. The matters will be heard in San Francisco. Once the state court's judicial council affirms Kramer's ruling, a superior court judge will be assigned to hear the cases.

A trial date will not be set until that time.

The city attorney's office had argued against coordinating the cases because it feared it would delay its own case, *San Francisco v. California*, which the city is eager to prosecute. That case argues that the state's antigay marriage laws are unconstitutional. After the ruling, city attorney spokesman Matt Dorsey said the office was pleased with the decision.

"The good news is the judge acknowledges efficiency and expediency are very important in this situation," said Dorsey. "It was coordinated on terms we are fine with. Everything will be happening in San Francisco."

Kramer said he expects the judicial council will move "expeditiously" on the matter, Dorsey said.

The cases included in the coordination

petition include City Attorney Dennis Herrera's original action, *San Francisco v. California*, which has already been consolidated with *Woo v. State of California* (S.F. Superior Court No. CPF-04 504038). The other cases to be coordinated include *Proposition 22 Legal Defense and Education Fund v. City and County of San Francisco* (S.F. Superior Court No. 503943); *Thomasson v. Newsom* (S.F. Superior Court No. 428794); and *Tyler v. County of Los Angeles* (L.A. County Superior Court No. BS 088506).

A sixth case filed by Waukegan McCoy in San Francisco Superior Court was not ready to be considered alongside the others in the coordination hearing because the attorney general added it after the petition regarding coordinating the other cases. Dorsey said it is expected that case will be added in the future.

Elsewhere, a New York State Supreme Court judge on Monday, June 7 permanently barred New Paltz Mayor Jason West from marrying gay couples who do not have licenses. Justice Michael Kavanagh left unanswered the question of whether the state ban on same-sex unions is constitutional.

Kavanagh said the state Legislature or the courts must make the decision regarding who may marry in New York state. "The mayor by his office is obligated to comply with the law and abide by it," Kavanagh wrote. "A public officer may not question the constitutionality of a statute and refuse

to comply with its provisions."

West was sued after performing more than two-dozen same-sex weddings on February 27. His lawyer, Joshua Rosenkranz, said he would appeal the ruling.


Also on Wednesday in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sandoval County Clerk Victoria Dunlap and lawyers for the state attorney general went back to court after Dunlap said she's preparing to start issuing more marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Dunlap issued 66 same-sex marriage licenses on February 20 before the sheriff, acting on instructions from Attorney General Patricia Madrid, stepped in and shut down her office. Madrid then got an injunction preventing Dunlap from issuing more licenses.

Judge Louis McDonald held a status conference Wednesday to hear both sides and ruled that the injunction is still in place. If Dunlap were to go ahead and issue the licenses, she could face contempt charges.

Dunlap's attorney, Paul Livingston, Sunday had told Albuquerque television station KOB that he advised her that the court order was "illegally gotten, improper and inappropriate," and announced she was in a legal position to resume issuing the licenses.

Dunlap, a Republican, was censured by the party for issuing the original licenses. She is retiring as clerk this year and lost her bid for a seat on the county commission. ▼



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BAY AREA REPORTER

Volume 34, Number 24
10 June 2004

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Reagan's silence

Former President Ronald Reagan, who died Saturday after a decade battling Alzheimer's disease, was not universally admired during his eight years in the White House. Despite the nonstop glowing coverage of his presidency in the mainstream media in the days immediately following his death, it must also be noted that the 40th president was at times combative, dismissive of civil rights and organized labor issues, and had worked hard to cut environmental and social programs, such as affordable housing. Conspicuously absent is the fact that Reagan remained stubbornly silent during the first six years of his administration on the subject of AIDS. During those early days of the epidemic, tens of thousands of gay men suffered excruciating deaths, while activists' calls for federal help understanding this new disease went unheeded. Many men who were around in the early 1980s aren't here today to talk about Reagan's silence and what it meant to them; they are buried in cemeteries across the country.

Some gay conservatives, most notably British transplant Andrew Sullivan, have tried in recent days to pooh-pooh those of us who clearly remember those horrible years. The gay left, Sullivan wrote in his weblog, basically is "loopy." With all due respect to Mr. Sullivan, he is dead wrong.

Those of us who call the Bay Area home are reminded every day of the painful toll AIDS took on our community 20 years ago — and continues to do so today. In the 1980s, the Bay Area Reporter ran page after page of obituaries of men who had died of AIDS and related complications. Thankfully, that has changed, as scientific and medical advances have given a new lease on life to many who are diagnosed with the HIV virus. But we can't help but think of how different our history might have been had President Reagan taken a leadership role against AIDS early on. He certainly had gay friends — notably those in the entertainment industry — and he certainly could have used the presidential bully pulpit to call for heightened research. That research might have lessened the veral death toll by bringing help sooner to millions of people throughout the world.

Instead, Reagan was under the spell of the religious right. Christian conservatives like Gary Bauer and Pat Buchanan served in high-profile posts in his administration and got the message out that AIDS was God's punishment for being gay. That hateful rhetoric lives on today in many places and has hindered the advancement of equality for the LGBT community.

Longtime San Francisco activist Eric Rofes, now a professor of education at Humboldt State University in Northern

California, sent out an e-mail the other day that reviews this history, and urges the community to come together to educate its younger members about Reagan's record. He's distraught that the country has a case of "cultural amnesia" at the moment concerning Reagan. "Just as our queer community was abandoned and left on our own to create the early responses to AIDS, I encourage us to immediately initiate community-based opportunities to express our outrage at the dishonest reinvention of the Reagan legacy and to link up with all the other communities that are experiencing similar fury," Rofes wrote. He encourages community members to dig out the old "Silence=Death" T-shirts from the early 1980s and to wear them, explaining what they mean to those who ask. He suggests that community forums can be used to expose younger activists to the president's inaction on AIDS and to commemorate those who died due to the former president's failure of leadership.

Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, sent out a moving statement on Sunday in the form of an open letter to a friend who had died of AIDS-related complications. In it, he points out that the forces of religious intolerance have not weakened, but have grown stronger in the years since Reagan was in office. The federal government, he said, continues to bow to right-wingers by fighting condom distribution and explicit HIV education in favor of "abstinence only

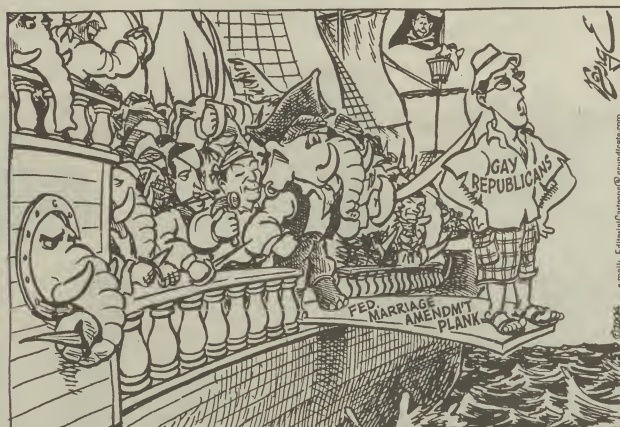
until marriage." Those same forces, he noted, are also "fighting to forever outlaw even the hope of marriage" for gay people.

Reagan did have impeccable timing — in life and in death. His passing has shoved the war in Iraq — and President Bush's numerous problems associated with the war's aftermath — off the front pages. Just as Bush is gearing up for re-election, Reagan's death has resulted in an outpouring of sympathy across the country. While we certainly feel for anyone in their time of loss, we cannot stand silently by while Republicans rewrite history. The GOP convention in New York later this year promises to be a Reagan lovefest, so in early September we'll again have the tributes and the distortions to confront.

The influence of the Christian right was not evident during Reagan's eight years as California's governor. He signed the country's first law protecting a woman's right to choose; and after leaving the Statehouse, he came out against Proposition 6 in 1978. That measure, known as the Briggs initiative, would have barred gays from teaching in public schools. It was defeated at the polls.

An honest review of the full history reveals that the rise of the religious right and its influence on government and policy coincided with Reagan's presidency. This relationship between conservative Republicans and Christian social conservatives moved the country further to the right and resulted in pain, suffering, and death for thousands. ▼

Editorial



"HMPH! THIS CRUISE HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT ONE DISAPPOINTMENT AFTER ANOTHER!"

Reagan a 'great' president?

by Will Snyder

Somewhere in the files of the Bay Area Reporter is a photo by Rink that sums up the Ronald Reagan era as far as the gay community is concerned. The stark drama of the picture says it all.

In the first few years of the AIDS crisis, President Reagan acted as if AIDS didn't exist. He never uttered the word. The first report of what was to become known as AIDS was mentioned in a New York Times article in July 1981.

By the time the Rink photo appeared in the B.A.R., people with AIDS had become desperate. There were no medicines available. People were dropping like flies.

A group of gay men had started chaining themselves to the entrance of the Federal Building. One man in particular was crying because no one seemed to be listening to his pleas for help.

So, for those who are going to be inundated with tearful nostalgia about the "Great Communicator," I remember that photograph. Every tear of desperation.

And, it didn't stop there either. In the

middle of the 1980s, Reagan finally mentioned the word "AIDS" after his buddy Rock Hudson said he was sick with the disease. The Reagan White House already had lost a staff member, Terry Dolan, to AIDS, but Reagan still hadn't mentioned the word until Hudson's illness was revealed.

Reagan asked presidential aide Gary Bauer to form a commission to study the disease. Bauer lined up Reagan friends like Amway CEO and Republican contributor Richard DeVos. However, there were no doctors or scientists on the commission.

I called Bauer and asked him why there were no medical experts on the panel. His answer was the epitome of the White House's cynicism toward the gay community then.

"We're not trying to solve this disease," said Bauer, matter-of-factly, "we just want to know how many beds we need."

Six months after Bauer made this cold statement, there was a doctor from New York on the next commission. But more than half a decade of White House inertia would mean that the obituary pages of the

B.A.R. and other gay and lesbian newspapers would be filled on a weekly basis.

A few years ago, I got into an argument with a gay Republican about Reagan's long silence on the AIDS issue. "What did you want him to do?" grumbled the grizzly GOPer. "Put on a lab coat and personally find a cure?"

No, I answered, but he could have showed that he cared about his fellow citizens. I pointed out that I had tested positive in the early 1990s and I was still alive because of the HIV drugs made available during both Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton's administrations.

Had President Reagan put together a serious effort to fight the disease in 1981 instead of waiting until 1987, thousands of people would still be alive.

So, thanks for nothing, Mr. President. ▼

Guest Opinion

Will Snyder was an assistant editor of the B.A.R. from 1985-1989. For three of those years, one of his duties was to edit the newspaper's obituary pages.

LETTERS

Reagan and AIDS

Ronald Reagan remains "the Teflon president" even in death. This past weekend's orgy of media coverage and commemorative editions totally ignored a significant, shameful part of his legacy that has affected many of us directly and is now having dire consequences around the globe.

By May 1987 when Reagan gave his first speech on AIDS, 36,058 Americans had been diagnosed with the disease and 20,849 were already dead, according to Randy Shilts's *And the Band Played On*. The next year Shilts reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle* that Reagan had signed a presidential proclamation declaring October as AIDS Awareness Month. He signed it on October 28, 1988. The White House press office announced it on November 1 — after the month was over.

Reagan is being applauded for changing the world by ending the Cold War. But in the end, his refusal to even mention the spreading AIDS pandemic throughout the early 1980s, much less provide early funding for research and education, promises to have vastly more far-reaching effects on the world's population.

Denis Wade
San Francisco

Syphilis testing important

Thanks for your story on neurosyphilis [*"City reports first neurosyphilis death," June 3*]. I'd like to add a few points: neurosyphilis can occur at any stage of syphilis infection. Anyone who has signs or symptoms of syphilis — a painless sore on the genitals, mouth, or hands; a rash, especially on the palms or soles; painful sores in the mouth; persistent unexplained headache or fever; or visual or hearing loss — should be tested for syphilis. In addition, all sexually active men who have sex with men should be screened with a blood test every three to six months. The bacteria that cause syphilis are shed by sores related to syphilis and from the rash. Condoms prevent a lot of syphilis but not all of it because the bacteria can come from the rash or sores that are not on the genitals. Early syphilis is treated with one shot, but follow-up tests are important to make sure neurosyphilis hasn't already taken hold.

Paul Quick, M.D.
San Francisco

CA high court's 'legal gymnastics'

The California Supreme Court should not be deciding whether San Francisco County acted properly in issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples at this time [*"CA Supreme Court focuses on validity of gay marriage licenses," May 27*]. To do so is putting the cart before the horse. The true test of San Francisco's actions in this matter is whether the premise upon which San Francisco acted is valid or not (i.e., the unconstitutionality of California's "defense of marriage" law).

In order to obtain a legal determination, the matter must wind its way through lower courts to hear testimony and evidence in order to make a determination. That could take a year or two. There is good reason to believe that defense of marriage laws are unconstitutional. If a formal determination is made two years hence that this law is unconstitutional, then the law is just as unconstitutional today as when the determination is made. Therefore, San Francisco did act properly and responsibly in this matter.

Whether it was intended or not, for the California Supreme Court to agree to hear the gay marriage issue on such narrow legal grounds puts the city and county of San Francisco on trial instead of the state of California and amounts to little more than a legal ambush of the gay community. The matter before the California Supreme Court is legal gymnastics that will create a legal façade upon which to justify continued discrimination against gay and lesbian couples who are denied and need the benefits of marriage in order to conduct their lives in a normal and orderly fashion.

It is interesting to note that San Francisco County was represented before the California Supreme Court and the antigay religious fanatics had legal representation. However, there was no lawyer present representing the gay community. We had no voice and we were shut out of oral arguments before the court on May 25, yet it is the gay community that will suffer the consequences and will be most directly affected by how the court rules in this matter. This is not my idea of justice.

George Collins
Berkeley, California

Coors company is nervous

I can't say that I've given much thought to the 25-year dispute between Coors brewery and the LGBT community, until I saw the ad that Coors took out on the back page of the *Bay Area Reporter* last week. Perhaps it is the old Shakespearean warning of, "Methinks thou doth protesteth too much," but this ad smacks of nervousness on the part of the company as brewery magnate Peter Coors mounts his bid to become the

next United States senator from Colorado.

I have to applaud their gumption at taking out an ad bragging about their perfect score from the Human Rights Campaign and all of the internal advances that the company has made with LGBT employees. But the actual record demands further scrutiny as Peter Coors attempts to move into a policy making role that will impact our community. In a recent Senate debate Peter Coors not only came out against same-sex marriage, but he backed the president's call for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage sponsored by Colorado's own Representative Marilyn Musgrave. Peter Coors also serves as the vice president of the Castle Rock Foundation, which is currently funding a number of organizations that are actively working to challenge LGBT advances in the legal and legislative arenas, including legal challenges in Massachusetts. A quick glance at the diversity section of the Coors Web site will also reveal that their diversity statement doesn't even mention the words gay or lesbian. Lastly, if they are so proud of their lesbian and gay employees then why isn't Mary Cheney out there campaigning for Mr. Coors and Mr. Cheney?

So the next time you grab a Silver Bull, remember it's aimed right at your civil liberties.

Michael Colbruno
Oakland, California

Pick-up lines

To the guy who was miffed that his attempt at humor was greeted with a cold avoidance of eye contact by a "cute, hunky guy" [*Mailstrom, May 20*], may I ask if he would have made such a comment to someone to whom he was not attracted?

Pick-up lines are easy to spot. What would have happened had the "cute, hunky guy" acknowledged the author? Would the author then have tried to take

it a step further and then eventually tried to get into the guy's pants? Having once received a lot of come-ons myself, I can say that this is the scenario in nearly 100 percent of the cases.

I think it's interesting that the author tries to put the blame on the "cute, hunky guy" by saying that if he didn't want comments, he should be wearing a blank T-shirt. This is a classic case of the perpetrator blaming the victim.

Now, I'm not excusing the attractive guy for the rudeness, but there are a limited number of ways such a guy can react without the pursuer getting the impression that he's allowing a come-on.

San Francisco is a rough place. It is not Disneyland. It is not a candy store and people are not available for the taking.

That said, it's not very difficult to talk to someone. But the way to do it is to take a genuine interest in the other person (and never, never tell them they are attractive!). Take a genuine interest and contribute to the conversation whatever information you might have that might be useful to the person. And realize that if you have nothing to contribute, then it is a connection that was not meant to be.

David Kaye
San Francisco

30 years of Shanti

It's been 30 years since Shanti was born as an idea, a reaction to the challenge of life-threatening illness. At first, a small group of volunteers offered support to people with cancer and their families, helping ordinary people face the impossible — the impending loss of a loved one. By the late 1970s, Shanti had support groups meeting all over the Bay Area.

But by the early 1980s, Shanti had exhausted all means of support. Even though hundreds of people had been trained as volunteers or helped through their last days, donations were dwindling, and an exhausted board was considering closure. Then, AIDS arrived. Unnamed and mysterious at first, it became clear to some in the gay community that, whatever it was, a special kind of caregiving would be required — fast.

And so, the Shanti we recognize today was born; a small group, many of them gay men, took over the leadership of Shanti, bringing new energy to Shanti's mission and applying years of experience gained in cancer to HIV. That was over 20 years and 13,000 volunteers ago.

Today, as we celebrate our 30th birthday, we face another period when resources seem exhausted. Like many of our colleagues, we've been hit hard by recent government cuts — losing more than \$1 million in just three months. If the latest city cuts occur, hundreds of San Franciscans will lose support from Shanti's volunteers who provide cost-effective care that not only helps highly vulnerable people, but also saves the city money.

Shanti is inviting all volunteers, clients, and supporters past and present to march in this year's Pride Parade; to register, call Tara Stacker at (415) 674-4722. For more information on how you can help Shanti, please visit our website at www.shanti.org/helpout.

Hywel Sims, Executive Director, Shanti
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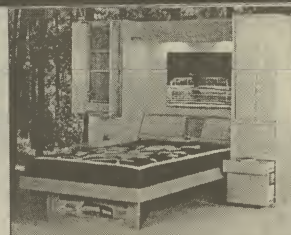
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Who chooses the real me?

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

As I've watched the trial of the three defendants accused of killing Gwen Araujo unfold, I've watched the defense lawyers try to paint a picture of "upstanding young men" who were "deceived" by Araujo, and that their actions — murder — were somehow justified. It doesn't take much to figure out just where I stand on this.

All the while, the lawyers — even the prosecution at times — have tried to paint a picture that Gwen Araujo was really a man and that while she was expressing her gender, the reality of who she was somehow played into her death. The mainstream media has played into this as well, stressing Gwen Araujo's birth name, while relegating her preferred name to "nickname" status.

It makes me wonder what people see when they see a transgender person, or when someone they love comes out as transgender — and how that view is often a polar opposite to how many transgender people view themselves.

It may sound clichéd, but when I think of the person I once was, I see that as more of an artifice than the person I am today. It was akin to a suit of gendered armor I wore in order to protect myself from harm.

The face one sees today is the default, the unguarded and real person who once felt the need to fit into an uncomfortable societal construct in order to survive.

Nevertheless, I'll bet many look at this in another fashion, as if I have somehow attempted to cover the "real" me with some facade of femininity — and the persona they once knew is the real me, the "man behind the curtain," if you will.

My friends always knew me as a fairly masculine creature, complete with some of the best trappings of manhood. If anything, I had done a very fine job of fitting in as a so-called normal man.

They didn't see any of the inner turmoil, as I hid all the years of pain and grief earned from trying to live my life in accordance with the plans that society and my own body had laid out for me. If anything, I did such a good job of hiding that the concept of me feeling such a need to change my gender was unthinkable by even my closest acquaintances.

I'm also sure that I seemed like quite an odd duck for a while, as I attempted to unlearn all these things that had worked so well for me for so long, and adapt to a whole new set of patterns. It is, perhaps, the difference between knowing what gender you wish to be part of, and actually trying to be within that gender.

This is more than the physical, though I am sure that struggling with a five o'clock shadow and a body well adapted to presenting as a male did not help matters. Being an active member of your gender can mean so much more than this, with any number of often deceptively subtle things to master. All the while, you can be judged on how well you actually do fit these constraints, and not doing a good enough job is to be deemed "not manly enough" or "unwomanly" — and therefore false.

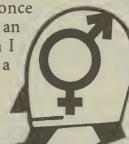
This is a Catch-22, however, because if one takes things too far, then one is viewed as being some sort of artificial and "over the top"



Christine Smith

version of a gender, and is also viewed as false.

It doesn't help that many of the trappings of a gender are little more than stereotypes, and when one tries to rail against what one knows is an unhealthy stereo-



Transmissions

type, they can find themselves viewed with suspicion. I don't want to have to portray a Stepford wife in order to be seen as a female, and I suspect there are plenty of

FTMs in this world who have little desire to try their hand at being some overly macho Charlton Heston clone in order to simply express their gender orientation in society as a whole.

Consider what Gwen Araujo's accused killers had listed as reasons they suspect she was not a biological female. In amongst all the typical considerations — such as the size of her hands — were things like the fact that she didn't paint her toenails, and that she was "aggressive." I'd hate to think of a world where women had to be slaves to the polish bottle, let alone stuck in a Donna Reed world of passive femininity.

Of course, just about any transperson will gladly tell you their story, hoping that you can

see a little of what we've been through and how we've ended up where we are today. One only need to stop by your local queer positive bookstore or library to see scores of autobiographies written by transgender people, trying to help you see the world through their eyes.

There are those who would use that as further proof, however, that this is still some form of put-on, and that we aren't so much trying to convince them, but ourselves.

So yet again we end up damned if we do, damned if we don't. If we try to defend ourselves, we are simply liars, and if we don't speak up, then others will simply fill in the blanks for us.

In the end, I can only be myself. When I walk down the street, I am me. I am not what anyone else says I am. In doing so, I run the risk that others like me — and like Gwen Araujo — faced, I also run the risk that I too will be labeled a deceiver, and that someone could argue that by simply being myself, I too deserved to die. ▼

Gwen Smith's life is not a democracy, but a monarchy: only she gets to vote on it. You can find her on the World Wide Web at www.gwensmith.com.

Bookstore closing



Jane Philomen Clearand

Suzanne Corson, owner of Boadecia's Books in Kensington (just north of Berkeley) will shutter her store this weekend, after 12 years in business. Corson cited the economic struggles of the last few years as the reason she's closing up shop and said the closing is a loss for the feminist and LGBT communities. Boadecia's, located at 398 Colusa Avenue, is having a clearance sale from now until Sunday; all items are 35 percent off. The store's final event takes place Saturday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m. with author Mabel Maney (Nancy Clue and Cherry Aimless mystery spoofs). For more information, call (510) 559-9184 or visit www.bookpride.com.

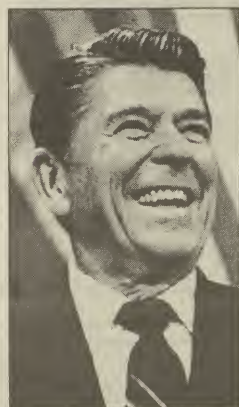
POLITICS

Keeping Reagan's legacy in perspective

by Wayne Friday

Ronald Reagan was governor of California when I moved to this state in 1970 and a highly popular, seemingly "regular" guy he truly was. He was, of course, the country's 40th president and died Saturday, June 5 at the age of 93 after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Indeed, Reagan is the only president I can think of in recent history who left the White House more popular with Americans than when he took office. The fight that Reagan had to battle for the last 10 years of his life with the horrible disease Alzheimer's must have been truly unimaginable. No person deserves such a fate, though a staggering 4.5 million Americans suffer from this terrible disease.



Ronald Reagan

As the nation pauses this week to say goodbye to Ronald Reagan, (the "Great Communicator," as he was long known), however, we should also remember another side of this man.

While governor of California, Reagan closed mental health facilities by the score; as both governor and later as president he lowered the tax burden on the rich and transferred it to the middle class. A Republican president who tripled the national debt in just eight years? That would be President Reagan. Finally, the man ignored the AIDS pandemic for years and by the time he first uttered the word "AIDS" in 1987 at the Third International Conference on AIDS in Washington, nearly 21,000 Americans had died of the disease, and AIDS had already spread to more than 100 countries. This is the legacy of Ronald Reagan as far as I'm concerned.

May he rest in peace.

Dems encouraged in House

It was just over a year ago that Commander-in-Chief **George Bush** was making his now-famous landing on an aircraft carrier off the California coast under a blazing White House-issued banner proclaiming "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq. High-fives were flying around the Pentagon, the president's job approval ratings were still high and the staffers at the Republican National Committee headquarters in Washington were loudly predicting (and more than a few Democrats were privately conceding) that the Bush-Cheney ticket was headed for a big



Mark Leno, Mabel Teng, John Laird, and Mel White at Santa Cruz Pride.

re-election win this November. For sure, things were looking pretty damned good for the Republicans a year ago – Bush was acting as though he was the reincarnation of Dwight D. Eisenhower, the economy had hints of turning around, and the Democrats had nearly a dozen candidates for president.

Over time, however, the war in Iraq has turned into a quagmire – American deaths have topped 800, to say nothing of those of our allies and the innocent Iraqi civilians – the president's job approval ratings have gone into the crapper, and American voters appear to have had enough of the Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld war.

Some GOP strategists are said to be privately worried that if support for the president continues to slip, Democrats, with a net gain of a dozen seats in November, could regain control of the House, something thought to be unthinkable a year ago. It was, in fact, only 10 years ago in 1994 that Democrats lost control of the House of Representatives in the big Republican sweep when the GOP picked up more than 30 seats. The Democrats have been the minority party in that chamber ever since.

Could a strong Democratic ticket led by **John Kerry** and aided by a few possible defections from the GOP, place Democrats in control both in the White House and on Capitol Hill? Nothing to bet on, but surely within reason.

Representative **Nancy Pelosi** (D-San Francisco) would no doubt guardedly tell you that Democrats nationally are beginning to get a whiff of victory not only at the presidency, but with a little bit of wind at their backs, and a lot of luck, Kerry could very well be the next president and Pelosi could become the next speaker of the House of Representatives. That is a thought that should certainly bring all good men and women to the aid of the Democratic Party. My check is in the mail; is yours?

Politics and people

Assemblymen **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) and **John Laird** (D-Santa Cruz) enjoyed Sunday's 30th annual Santa Cruz Pride Parade and festival. This year's theme was "Family Values" and the grand marshals included San Francisco Assessor-Recorder **Mabel Teng** and the Reverend

Mel White.

According to a Field Poll released last week a strong majority of California voters still support a woman's right to an abortion, while a slimmer majority opposes same-sex marriage. The nonpartisan poll found, however, that a strong majority of the state's voters oppose amending the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriages. The latest Field survey found large majorities of Republicans, older voters, evangelical Christians, and Bush supporters opposed to legalizing same-sex marriage; while a smaller majority of Democrats, Kerry supporters, and voters aged 18 to 34 said gay marriage should be legalized. Even

though most voters said they oppose making same-sex marriage legal, a clear majority, 54 to 41 percent, said they oppose a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

This guy needs to see a therapist: The White House revealed recently that President Bush keeps in his White House offices a trophy of what he considers the high point in his war against Iraq – the pistol that **Saddam Hussein** held when soldiers pulled him from his underground hideaway. We're not kidding here, folks – military specialists mounted the sidearm, and soldiers who helped in the deposed Iraq president's capture presented it to Bush, who keeps the gun in a study adjoining the Oval Office.

San Francisco leather community favorite **Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt** would like to invite leather community members and their admirers to a re-election fundraiser beer benefit she's hosting for Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) at Daddy's bar on Castro Street, Sunday, June 20, 4-8 p.m., and I'll see you there.

Incidentally, each California legislator was asked to personally choose a "Small Business Owner of the Year" from his/her district and be so recognized at a recent Capital ceremony in Sacramento and Assemblyman Leno chose one of his district's most popular small business owners for the award – **Greg Bronstein**, owner of the Castro's Luna's, Blue, and Red Grille restaurants and The Bar on Castro, one of the area's most popular night spots. Congratulations to Bronstein, a gay small business owner who gives back much to the community.

And how was your week? ▼

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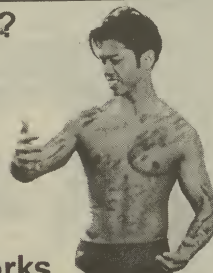


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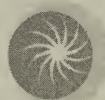


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Reagan and gays: A reassessment

by Dale Carpenter

When Ronald Reagan died on June 5, many gay Americans lost no tears. The conventional view in gay political circles is that Reagan, a strong conservative, was virulently antigay. In this view, Reagan was propelled to office by the newly powerful religious right, and repaid that support with socially conservative administration appointments and policies. (Most unforgivably, according to the conventional view, Reagan did nothing while thousands of gay men died of AIDS. That's a charge I'll address in my next column.) The truth about Reagan and gays, however, is more complicated.

Start with the notion that Reagan himself was antigay. Like most of us, Reagan reflected the prejudices of his times. Born in 1911, he grew up in a small-town world that misunderstood and feared homosexuality. He was 62 by the time homosexuality was removed from the official list of mental disorders. According to biographer Lou Cannon, Reagan shared the common view of his time that homosexuality was a sickness. He was not above telling jokes about gays.

Still, perhaps because he worked with gay actors in Hollywood and had gay friends, Reagan was relatively tolerant. Cannon notes that Reagan was "respectful of the privacy of others" and was "not the sort of person who bothers about what people do in their own bedrooms." This attitude was consistent with Reagan's larger philosophical commitment to individual liberty and limited government.

Reagan's daughter, Patti Davis (the politically liberal one), recounted on *Time* magazine's Web site that she and her father once watched an awkward kiss between Doris Day and Rock Hudson in a movie. Reagan explained to his daughter that the closeted Hudson would have preferred to kiss a man. "This was said in the same tone that would be used if he had been telling me about people with different colored eyes," recalled Davis, "and I accepted without question that this whole kissing thing wasn't reserved just for men and women."

During Reagan's presidency the first openly gay couple spent a night together in the White House.

In a column for the *Washington Post* on March 18, 1984, Robert Kaiser described the sleep-over: "[The Reagans'] interior decorator, Ted Graber, who oversaw the redecoration of the White House, spent a night in the Reagans' private White House quarters with his male lover, Archie Case, when they came to Washington for Nancy Reagan's 60th birthday party. ... Indeed, all the available evidence suggests that Ronald Reagan is a closet tolerant."

Tolerance is not acceptance, however, and Reagan made it clear in speeches that he would not cross the line to the latter. Said Reagan during the 1980 presidential campaign: "My criticism is that [the gay movement] isn't just asking for civil rights; it's asking for recognition and acceptance of an alternative lifestyle which I do not believe society can condone, nor can I."

Aside from his tolerant personal attitude, Reagan's actual record on civil liberties for gays was surprisingly good. Cannon reports that Reagan was "repelled

ty is determined at a very early age and that a child's teachers do not really influence this." This was a remarkably progressive thing for a politician, especially a conservative one about to run for president, to say in 1978. The Briggs initiative was overwhelmingly defeated. Its sponsors blamed Reagan for the defeat.

Nor does Reagan's record as president support the view that he was strongly antigay. Reagan was not much worse on gay issues than Jimmy Carter, his opponent in 1980, who avoided even meeting with gay groups. Walter Mondale, Reagan's opponent in 1984, received only tepid gay support, according to gay activist Urvasi Vaid in her book *Virtual Equality*. Neither Carter nor Mondale made support for any gay rights measure an issue in their respective campaigns, though their party's platform included a gay rights plank.

The military's ban on service by homosexuals was firmly in place long before Reagan became president. It remained in force during his tenure, of course, but discharges for homosexuality declined every single year of Reagan's

Reagan often talked the talk of religious conservatism, but he did not often walk the walk.

by the aggressive public crusades against homosexual lifestyles which became a staple of right wing politics in the late 1970s."

In 1978, for example, Reagan vigorously opposed a California ballot initiative sponsored by religious conservatives that would have barred homosexuals from teaching in the public schools. The timing is significant because he was then preparing to run for president, a race in which he would need the support of conservatives and moderates very uncomfortable with homosexual teachers. As Cannon puts it, Reagan was "well aware that there were those who wanted him to duck the issue" but nevertheless "chose to state his convictions."

Reagan penned an op-ed against the so-called Briggs initiative in which he wrote, "Whatever else it is, homosexuality is not a contagious disease like the measles. Prevailing scientific opinion is that an individual's sexual-

gan's presidency, suggesting the administration wasn't interested in antigay witch-hunts.

It's true that no pro-gay legislation, like an employment nondiscrimination bill, made headway during the Reagan years. But antigay legislation also made little progress. Reagan often talked the talk of religious conservatism, but he did not often walk the walk.

His priorities were elsewhere: reviving the country's morale, strengthening national defense to defeat the Soviet Union in the Cold War, limiting the growth of the federal government, and boosting the economy. At each of these, Reagan succeeded brilliantly. Gays, like all other Americans, continue to benefit from his legacy. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Past columns can be read at www.indegayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Burn and run

by Jane Warner

Unit block of Grandview Avenue, June 5, 12:05 a.m.: The fire department responded to a report of car fire. Upon arrival, firefighters saw the engine compartment of a blue Ford Taurus engulfed in flames, and a tall white male running from the scene. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire and notified police about the suspicious person they had seen fleeing. Officers arrived and discovered that the scorched car had no license plates, just a DMV sticker in the window. They ran the information off the sticker and found that the vehicle was registered to someone who

lived on 18th Street. Officers responded to that address and realized it was a U.S. post office. They left vehicle at the scene with a case number placed under the windshield wiper.

Streiking in the city

2300 block of Market, June 4, 8:21 a.m.: A caller reported to 911 that a man was running naked westbound on Market Street. Officers responded and found the unclothed suspect standing in the middle of the intersection of Sanchez and Market holding a cardboard box against his genitals. Officers approached the man and asked him if he needed help. "Yes," he replied. The 43-year-old man was taken to San Francisco

General Hospital for evaluation.

Possible sexual assault

17th and Dolores, June 6, 4 a.m.: A woman walked in to the rape treatment program at SF General and reported she had been sexually assaulted. The woman told the nurse that she knew the suspect, but she didn't want police to be notified and only wanted to be medically treated. According to policy, the nurse notified law enforcement anyway, and an officer responded to the hospital. The victim, 33, refused to give any further information other than the alleged attack occurred at 17th and Dolores around 4 a.m. The woman was given a case number and the phone number of the sexual assault inspector in case she changed her mind.

Laundry room snafu

200 block of Clinton Park, June 3, 5:30 p.m.: A building manager called police after he discovered two laundry machines had been damaged in his building. An officer responded and the manager showed him where a plug to one machine had been cut and on the other machine the lint tray had been damaged. The manager also reported receiving a threatening phone call from someone who told him, "If you sell the building we will tear it down." The manager told the officer that he believes someone is upset about the pending sale of the building, fearing that the new owner will convert it into condominiums. ▼



Jury selection under way in Internet murder trial

by Ed Walsh

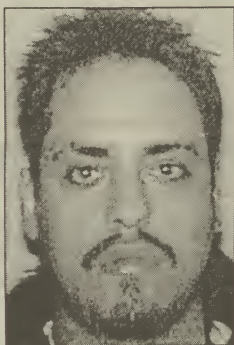
How did a seemingly routine Internet hookup end in a murder so brutal that police would label it "overkill"? A panel of jurors is being selected this week to answer that question nearly three years after the killing that stunned neighbors in the quiet East Bay city of El Cerrito.

Brian Misquez, 25, is charged with killing Rogelio De Chavez in July 2001 in De Chavez's El Cerrito apartment. De Chavez, 22, was stabbed more than two dozen times with two knives from his kitchen. One of the knives was plunged into De Chavez's head with such force that it broke off in his skull. Four to five of the stab wounds were inflicted after De Chavez was already dead, according to prosecutors.

After a number of delays in the case, jury selection began on Monday, June 7, in Contra Costa County Superior Court in Martinez. Prosecutor Paul Graves told the *Bay Area Reporter* that opening statements could begin as early as today (Thursday, June 10), but would more likely be held over to the start of next week, Monday, June 14.

Misquez, an Antioch resident, was connected to the case through fingerprints he allegedly left at the scene and by a file on the victim's computer. De Chavez saved a copy of his Internet chat with Misquez that contradicted Misquez's initial claims to police that he was acting in self-defense to prevent De Chavez from sexually assaulting him.

Misquez was arrested shortly after the crime. His fingerprints had been on file with police in connection with his prior arrest for auto theft. Police first arrived at Misquez's Antioch apartment but they were told that he just moved out with his girlfriend and his baby son and newborn daughter. Police located Misquez and his family in Oregon. They were staying with the mother of Misquez's girlfriend.



Brian Misquez

Misquez was brought back to Contra Costa County. He has been in custody awaiting trial in the Contra Costa County jail in Martinez. He has declined the B.A.R.'s requests for an interview. Shortly after his arrest, De Chavez confessed to the killing but he told police he is heterosexual and acted in self-defense to prevent being sexually assaulted by De Chavez. Misquez was apparently unaware at the time of his confession that De Chavez had saved the transcript of their Yahoo! chat.

According to the transcript of the chat obtained by the B.A.R. through court records, the pair decided to meet for sex on the day De Chavez was killed. The transcript also makes references to an earlier sexual encounter the two men had.

During Misquez's preliminary hearing in March 2002, his public defense attorney, Laurie Mont, strongly hinted of a gay panic defense strategy.

"In the middle of this act," Mont said, apparently referring to her client having sex with De Chavez, "he feels that - this desperate shame."

Mont argued that manslaughter, not murder, was the more appropriate charge because Misquez acted in a moment of blind passion, "without malice aforethought." ▼

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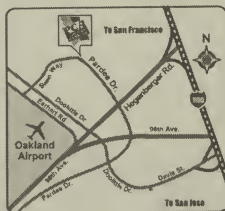
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Sheehy named AIDS czar

by Matthew S. Bajko

Mayor Gavin Newsom will announce today (Thursday, June 10), he has named Jeff Sheehy as his AIDS czar, the *Bay Area Reporter* learned Wednesday.

"I am delighted that Jeff has accepted to take on the role as HIV/AIDS adviser," said Newsom in a statement released to the B.A.R. "Jeff has been in the forefront of HIV/AIDS issues in San Francisco for over a decade. His

background and work in this field will be a tremendous asset in our quest to fight this epidemic."

Sheehy, 47, who is HIV-positive and openly gay, is the deputy director for communications at the AIDS Research Institute of the University of California, San Francisco. He will run the Mayor's Office on HIV and AIDS Policy on a volunteer, part-time basis and will begin his new role immediately.

"It is kind of daunting to start talking about HIV and AIDS with this fiscal environment," said

Sheehy. "I am humbled the mayor chose me. I appreciate his deep commitment to meeting the challenges that we face. We are doing it in an environment where we are faced with less resources, not more."

Sheehy met with Newsom in his City Hall office late Tuesday, June 8 to discuss his taking on the role. As AIDS czar, Sheehy is to study issues regarding HIV/AIDS and is to report periodically to Newsom "in a form jointly agreed to by them." In addition, the

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Volunteers needed to build pink triangle

by Zak Szymanski

Once again the time is approaching when San Francisco pays tribute to the LGBT victims of the Holocaust, with the annual installation of the pink triangle at Twin Peaks.

The pink triangle was a symbol used by the Nazis in concentration camps to identify those deemed to be homosexual and single out such prisoners for harsher treatment. Since that time, the gay

community has reclaimed the symbol, but not everybody who embraces the sign knows or remembers its history.

For the past eight years, a group of dedicated people has displayed a 200-foot pink triangle atop the Twin Peaks hillside where it can be seen from the Castro and other neighborhoods as far as 20 miles away. It is unveiled with a Pride weekend ceremony that includes speakers, invited guests, elected officials, and performers.

But it takes work for the annu-

al pink triangle display to happen, and that's where the community comes in.

Volunteers are needed to build and manage the one-acre project. The installation is Saturday, June 26, from 7 a.m. until 10 a.m. Volunteers should bring a hammer and gloves and arrive at the Twin Peaks vista point/overlook parking lot. Volunteers should also wear closed shoes; sandals are not recommended. Pink triangle T-shirts will be provided to all who

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Bethany hosts same-sex wedding reception Sunday

by Liz Highleyman

This Sunday, June 13, Bethany United Methodist Church in Noe Valley will host a mass

wedding reception for same-sex couples married in February and March after Mayor Gavin Newsom instructed city officials to begin issuing marriage licenses to LGBT couples.

Sunday's celebration will begin with an 11 a.m. worship service at the church, located at 1268 Sanchez Street near Clipper. The service will feature as guest speaker San Francisco Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng, who was instrumental in helping implement the same-sex marriages. Following the service will be a reception in the church hall with a giant cake, dancing, and other festivities.

The Bethany congregation sent invitations to the more than 4,000 gay and lesbian couples legally joined during the monthlong "Winter of Love" before the California Supreme Court called a halt to the issuance of same-sex marriage licenses. The public is also welcome.

"We have 14 couples in our congregation alone, but we are getting RSVPs from couples across the Bay Area as well as throughout the state," said Bethany pastor the Reverend Dr. Karen Oliveto.

Oliveto sparked controversy in February when she became the first pastor to marry a same-sex couple, Dan Johnson and Bill Hinson, in a United Methodist church sanctuary just days after Newsom's decision. Within a week, she was informed that a complaint had been lodged against her for "disobedience to the order and discipline" of the church.

Oliveto stands by her actions and has become a vocal supporter of same-sex marriage within the denomination. "Words are powerful. Friend, partner, lover ... none of these words convey the fullness of meaning implicit in spouse,

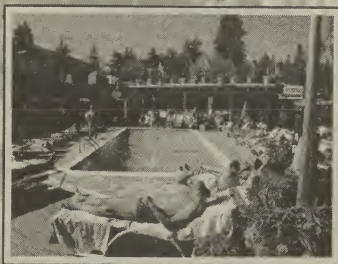
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Workshop helps men find life partners

by Matthew S. Bajko

Over the last year gay couples have dominated the nation's attention. From the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning the nation's sodomy laws last summer to gay marriages taking place on both coasts this winter and spring, never before has so much attention been given to men (and women) in relationships.

In San Francisco in particular, this past Valentine's Day appeared especially lonely for many single men who only had to look to City Hall to see what they were missing. Some even wondered out loud if there were any single men left in town.

Finding a life partner is easier said than done. As the cliché goes, love finds you when you least expect it. And while dating can be torturous, it can also be fun.

But when too many dates turn into flakes, or every night spent searching the Castro for a lover is a bust, many men have a tendency to blame everyone but themselves for going home alone.

It is the single most common mistake gay men looking for a partner make, said Neil Kaminsky, a social worker, therapist, and author of *Affirmative Gay Relationships: Key Steps in Finding a Life Partner* (Harrington Park Press).

"I think one of the things I see a person who wants a relationship get focused on is a lot of stuff outside of themselves. They say things like, 'This town has no good people,' or 'everyone I meet is a flake.'



Author Neil Kaminsky

They believe if they can only find this person everything will be okay. But they are not looking within themselves. They are not asking themselves, 'Why I am meeting these guys?'" said Kaminsky, who will be at Magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro, this weekend to talk about his book and ways gay men can form lasting relationships.

Kaminsky, 53, has been with his partner, Virgilio, 38, for three and a half years. The former San Francisco resident, who spent 14 years in the Bay Area and had his own private practice, published his self-help book last spring and has crisscrossed the country ever since advising those longing for love. His talks and book are so popular that Viacom has asked

him to speak to its employees on forming relationships the last week of June.

Kaminsky, who spoke to the *Bay Area Reporter* by phone from his home in West Hollywood, said his talk is not only for men actively looking for a partner, but also for those men who may want to understand why a recent relationship failed.

He stresses that there is nothing wrong with being single and a key to meeting a man is not to appear desperate.

"It is important to be relaxed about the whole process and not be freaking out about being single," he said.

In fact, he counsels in his book that men need to weigh the advantages of being single against the advantages of being coupled.

"You can be very happy being single in life if that is what you want," he said.

He said he personally has not seen his clients — or men attending his talks — desire to find a husband ratcheted up by the talk of gay marriage, but added, "I can see that as a possibility. A lot of people feel they have to be in a relationship. That was true even without gay marriage becoming an issue."

Kaminsky said the marriage issue, if anything, has caused problems for some men already in relationships who may differ on wanting to wed.

"Even in a long-term relationship you need to be clear about wanting to be married or not. That is a whole other step," he said.



Another bump in the relationship road Kaminsky counsels against is jumping into an open relationship too soon. Though he does say it is good to discuss your limits with potential partners early on in the courtship.

"With some gay men they say point blank 'that cannot work for me' while others say 'I can't be in a monogamous relationship,'" he said. "There is not a lot of daylight in dealing with that. I don't think one is better than the other."

As for all those flakes one may meet, he said, "If you see people bullshitting very early on, it's a real bad sign. If you give them a second chance you are asking for trouble."

The best advice for finding a man of quality, said Kaminsky, is to frequent places in which you are most comfortable. And while he believes love can be found in a bar, he said it is not likely to hap-

pen at a bathhouse where "the expectation is to find anonymous, quick sex. Nothing is going to come of this."

Nor does he think the Internet acts as cupid.

"The Internet has not made it easier for men to find relationships. I believe it's the sort of place where if a person doesn't meet your expectations you click them out of existence. It is a place where people do a lot of bullshitting," he said. "Lots of guys are disappointed when they meet the guy in person."

When going out he said, "Don't go to places where getting to know someone is not part of the agenda."

Nor should people limit the men they will date to only a certain type, be it someone of a certain race, age, or physical attribute.

"I am not saying you have to have sex with someone you are not attracted to but what do you have to lose in talking to someone at a party or having dinner with someone? You may find yourself attracted to their personality," he said.

Perhaps most importantly, Kaminsky said, men should maintain a positive attitude because, "You can meet someone anywhere." ▼

Kaminsky will appear from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, June 12 at Magnet, 4122 18th Street. The talk is free and open to the public.

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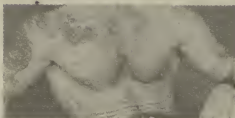
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Gays debate Reagan legacy

by Cynthia Laird

Former President Ronald Reagan, who died Saturday, June 5 at the age of 93, left a mixed legacy when it comes to gay and AIDS issues, many community members said.

Reagan died at his Los Angeles home after a 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Reagan, who served two terms as governor of California before going on to serve eight years as the nation's 40th president, was most sharply criticized for his non-response to the AIDS crisis in the first years of the epidemic. It was not until 1987 that Reagan uttered the word "AIDS" publicly for the first time. By then, tens of thousands of people—the vast majority

gay men—had died of the disease.

Reagan was elected president in 1980, and brought a tide of conservatism with him to the White House. Members of his administration included such anti-gay leaders as Gary Bauer and Pat Buchanan. And, when Reagan finally did get around to forming a presidential commission to study AIDS, there was not one medical doctor or scientist on the panel.

"AIDS was first reported in 1981, but President Reagan could not bring himself to address the plague until March 31, 1987, at which time there were 60,000 reported cases of full-blown AIDS and 30,000 deaths," wrote Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, in an open letter that he addressed to his friend, Steven Pows-



President Ronald Reagan

ner. Powsner, who died of AIDS-related complications in 1995, was the president of the New York City Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center from 1992-1994.

"Is it personal?" Foreman asked in his letter. "Yes, Steven. I know for a fact that you would be alive today if the Reagan administration had mounted even a tepid response to the epidemic. If pro-tease inhibitors had been available in July 1995 instead of December, you'd still be here."

Foreman went on to state that the administration's failing was due to more than ignorance or bureaucratic ineptitude.

"The government's response was dictated by the grip of evangelical Christian conservatives who saw gay people as sinners and AIDS as God's well-deserved punishment," Foreman stated.

Buchanan, he added, once ar-

gued in print that AIDS is nature's revenge on gay men. Bauer, he said, "made sure that science never got in the way of politics..."

Longtime gay activist Eric Rofes, who sent out an e-mail Tuesday morning, backed up that sentiment.

"Those of us who were out and involved in queer community life during the 1980s watched as our friends and lovers dropped dead around us while America looked the other way," Rofes said.

But others, like gay conservative Andrew Sullivan, downplayed Reagan's lack of response to the epidemic in its early years.

Sullivan, writing on his weblog this week, said he had been "up-braided" for not mentioning Reagan's AIDS legacy in his initial postings, in which he described the former president "as my hero."

"The basic argument from the gay left is that Reagan was single-handedly responsible for killing hundreds of thousands of people by negligence," Sullivan wrote. "This, however, borders on loopy."

Sullivan went on to state that while Reagan "should indeed be faulted for not doing more to warn people of the dangers of infection early enough," he doubted that gay men would have taken seriously any message from the president that they should wear condoms when engaging in sex.

"It's a blemish on his record," Sullivan wrote, "but not as profound as some, with understandable grief, want to make it out to be."

Longtime activist Laurie
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Ronald Reagan and the gay community

analysis by Bob Roehr

The gay community lost ground during the years of Ronald Reagan's administration as it reeled under the twin blows of the frightening emergence of HIV/AIDS and the growing prominence of the religious right. Reagan's importance was both in what he did and in what he did not do. It may still be too early to judge the full impact of his role in creating that history.

The first year of Reagan's presidency, 1981, saw the first recognition of clusters of pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) and "gay cancer" (Kaposi's sarcoma) among young, ostensibly healthy homosexual men. Those rare infections previously had been seen only among the very old with failing immune systems.

The National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention immediately began to investigate the startling phenomena as the death toll accelerated its upward spiral. By mid-1984 when they had identified the virus, nearly 5,000 cases had been reported; half of those patients were dead.

Reagan did not speak in public about AIDS until 1987, by which time there were 71,176 diagnosed

cases in the U.S. and 41,027 deaths. Many AIDS activists criticized Reagan for a lack of leadership on the issue, which they believed had contributed to those deaths.

The truth is that many people, including those in denial within the gay community, were slow to understand the meaning of HIV and exercise appropriate leadership. Time, the dedication of thousands of researchers and caregivers, and the expenditure of vast sums of money has demonstrated that the scientific and medical issues surrounding AIDS are extremely complex.

Many of the scientific questions that were raised during Reagan's time remain unanswered and the key measure of a protective vaccine for HIV has eluded the grasp of scientists under four administrations. President Bill Clinton's commitment to an AIDS vaccine has met with as much success as President Richard Nixon's earlier war on cancer. The moves call into question the extent of impact of presidential leadership in the realm of basic science.

Perhaps that is why AIDS generally was missing from mainstream accounts of Reagan's presidency upon his death. Some things are seen as a force of nature
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INDICATION: SUSTIVA (efavirenz) is used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam), or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few

reports of suicide but it is not known if SUSTIVA (efavirenz) was the cause. Rash is another common side effect. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. If you or your child develop a rash, call your doctor right away.

Women should not become pregnant or breastfeed while taking SUSTIVA.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime. Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.



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Please see important information about SUSTIVA on the next page.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah)
[efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)]
capsules and tablets**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.**

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz). Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?**General Information**

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.

- Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200-mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

Tablets

The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

- Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver or have hepatitis.** Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**
- have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures** (for example, Dilantin® (phenytoin), Tegretol® (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital). Your doctor may want to check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.

- tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA (efavirenz):

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir)
- Methadone
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Zolof® (sertraline)

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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Based on: 51-022486-01

Based on package insert dated June 2003 Revised June 2003

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay marriage

◀ page 1

it did come as a surprise to some, who had assumed that the gender-neutral change to the licenses was applied equally to all couples.

In deciding to separate the licenses, the city acted in the interest of protecting the opposite-sex marriages from any potential legal snafus. Presenting licenses to the state that were indistinguishable from one another could have held up the opposite-sex marriages, a variety of people and offices involved with the LGBT marriages confirmed.

"The decision to issue different forms was in anticipation of any legal entanglements, so that the traditional marriages – the heterosexual marriages – would not be rejected," said Pierre Barolette, spokesman for San Francisco Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng. "We didn't want the heterosexual marriages to be held up when they got to vital records."

Indeed, as apparently predicted, the state Office of Vital Records did announce in late February that it would reject the gender-neutral licenses used by San Francisco, because they had been illegally altered. And since the city issued separate licenses, that rejection applied only to the gay-specific licenses and not the licenses provided specifically to heterosexual couples.

But the city's choice to protect traditional marriage did not come from ignorant roots, attorneys and advocates told the *Bay Area Reporter*. Many options were considered, they said, but in the end, the legal issues around same-sex marriage are far more significant than the types of certificates issued for one magical month in San Francisco.

Paper trail

The clock was ticking, attorneys and officials were strategizing, and revolution was in the air. The city had to figure out a way to

make its marriage licenses accessible to LGBT couples so that it could immediately marry a few dozen couples and take a national stand on the issue.

Using "Bride" and "Groom" would not work, because of the implied sexes of each of those categories, and the fact that couples are essentially swearing to the truth when they enter a marriage contract. Interestingly, when Portland, Oregon followed in San Francisco's footsteps, it did use the traditional "Bride" and "Groom" forms; however, that state's marriage applications have always had a box to indicate the sex of both the bride and the groom, Oregon officials told the B.A.R., so one member of each same-sex couple would simply be assigned as "bride" or "groom" without attesting to a sex normally attached to that title.

In San Francisco, altering the forms to accommodate LGBT couples seemed to be the best decision.

"I remember someone saying state law prohibits altering those forms, and we all laughed – that was the least of our concerns," said Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and a key player in the city's fight for legal gay marriage.

Kendell explained to the B.A.R. that any legal rulings on the validity of same-sex marriages in San Francisco would trump the actual paperwork involved.

"The real issue has always been that if we were propelled into a constitutional challenge or some other kind of legal proceeding, that will completely eclipse whether the forms were modified," said Kendell.

Kendell added that issuing the gender-neutral forms to heterosexuals did not come up in her own conversations, but that inconveniencing opposite-sex marriages by issuing them potentially illegal forms was not a good political strategy.

In simplest terms, it won't be the separate forms that decide the

validity of the marriages, even if that segregation allows the gay marriages to be more easily identified.

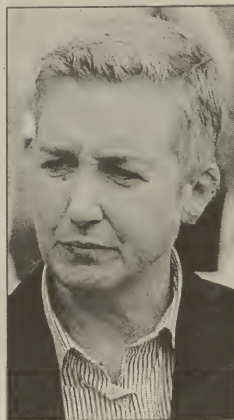
Any court ruling will be targeted toward the sexes of the couple, said Kendell, regardless of the application or licenses issued. In the end, the type of license a couple has is not going to help or harm the case for whether that marriage is valid.

"Let's say that the city accidentally issued 50 'same-sex' licenses to opposite-sex couples," proposed Kendell. "If those licenses are invalidated, clearly the ruling would be same-sex specific. So if an opposite-sex couple has a gender-neutral license they'll never know it and it will never be challenged. Because the issue is not the license, the issue is state law."

Why, then, did it matter enough to make sure that opposite-sex couples were distinguishable when it came to sending the licenses on to the state?

There is a certain value to being recognized at the state level, for record-keeping purposes, said Deputy Assessor-Recorder Minna Tao, noting that it's not always known or remembered in which county a couple married, making a centralized record locator useful. Tao added that she has yet to receive word that the gender-neutral licenses have been officially rejected by the state, at which point they would be returned to the city.

But having a state record of one's marriage is only useful if that marriage is legally recognized in the first place. It made no sense to jeopardize the recording of heterosexual marriages, in other words, simply for the symbolic sake of having one license used for all couples.



Therese Stewart

And as far as the city itself is concerned, such marriages are indistinguishable, said Tao, and were forwarded onto the state by sequential number, not by the sexes of the couples. The state would therefore have to examine each paper individually to find those marked with "Applicant" rather than "Bride" and "Groom."

"To us it's no different. There are no separate piles; everything is intermingled. Everyone is treated equally," said Tao.

Therese Stewart, San Francisco's chief deputy city attorney, who is representing the city in the case before the state Supreme Court, acknowledged that some opponents might try to use the separate licenses as an argument against the validity of the marriages. But such an argument likely will not work, she said.

"I can't promise you that no-

body will use that as a grounds to challenge the licenses; people look for whatever way out that they can," said Stewart. "But there's no legal holding. There are so many circumstances in which heterosexual people have not complied with the requirements during the marriage process, and in almost every circumstance the courts have said that doesn't invalidate the marriage."

Ironically, having the separate licenses did not save the straight couples when the United States Social Security Administration decided it would not accept any marriage related name changes from the city of San Francisco. That decision, according to reports, affects all couples regardless of the types of licenses they hold.

And those who have chosen to honor San Francisco same-sex marriages – from regional governments to private insurance companies – have also done so without regard to the type of license issued.

Local activist and advocate Jerry Threet, who married his partner at City Hall in February, told the B.A.R. that although he would like to see all marriage licenses changed to gender-neutral, he agrees with the decisions made by the city to issue separate licenses at first.

"I don't think the way to get there is to put in jeopardy the heterosexual marriages; in fact I think that would have alienated a lot of folks, especially those who are supportive," said Threet. "Symbolically ... there is a vestige of 'separate but equal' in that decision, but the court is not going to be too concerned about the piece of paper, so strategically, it makes sense." ▼

Capitol Pride

◀ page 1

unit of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. But just because the exhibit is a returning feature doesn't make it any less controversial.

Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe (San Diego) pointed out that there remain those in the Legislature opposed to recognizing the LGBT community.

"These occasions are always bittersweet for me," she told the audience. "One [Assembly] member had words with me on the floor about how much he objects to the display. It's not a slam dunk."

She did not name the lawmaker.

Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (Los Angeles), who married her longtime partner, Sharon Stricker, in San Francisco in March, noted that Tuesday marked their three-month anniversary. She used the exhibit opening to remind the community that AB205 goes into effect in January 2005 and will significantly expand the rights and responsibilities of domestic partners registered with the secretary of state's office. The bill, which Goldberg authored, was signed into law last September by former Governor Gray Davis. It provides almost all of the same benefits and responsibilities for domestic partners that married couples receive.

"We did wait an extra year because we want people to under-

stand that it will be a big change when you register," Goldberg said.

State Senator Sheila Kuehl (Santa Monica), California's first openly lesbian lawmaker, recounted how she felt in those days before she was joined by former Assemblywoman Carole Migden. A cartoon was sent to her, she said, with panels showing the gay and lesbian caucus having its first lunch.

"The last panel said, 'Sheila Kuehl, table for one.' But the Democratic Caucus was so embracing, so welcoming," she said.

Kuehl said she never imagined there would be a LGBT Pride display in the Capitol.

"We're tolerated, but we're not celebrated," she said. "The whole notion of Pride is to say, 'I'm proud.' It's not only a necessary aspect of civil rights, but fun."

Assemblyman John Laird (Santa Cruz) noted that he and Leno had just attended Santa Cruz's Pride festivities on June 6, and that his partner, John Flores, was in attendance because he was going to accompany Laird to a luncheon held by first lady Maria Shriver. The luncheon, however, has been postponed because of Reagan's death.

Several legislative allies also attended the ceremony, including state Senator John Vasconcellos (D-Santa Clara), and Assemblymen Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood), Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), and Mervyn Dymally (D-Compton). Dymally is also a former congressman and lieutenant governor. ▼

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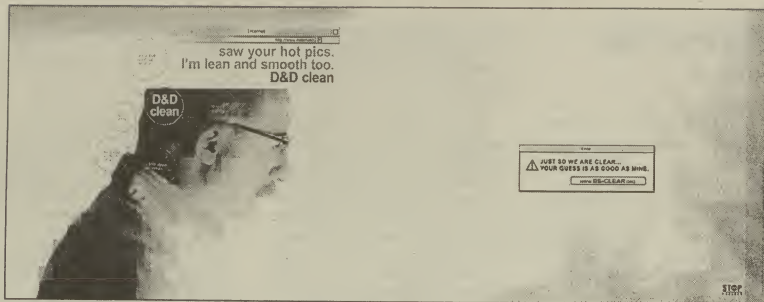
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One of the ads that will soon be seen in the Castro Muni station.

Internet sex

◀ page 1

fused by certain terms. One ad highlights the use of "clean" and the confusion over what it means. A man is shown in profile pondering the use of the word in an online profile on the fictitious Web site malematch.com. His thoughts include "This guy has no STDs," "This guy is HIV-neg," "This guy doesn't use crystal," and "This guy has clean sheets."

"Nobody has really agreed on what 'clean' means. It shifts depending on the significance," said Cabra. "The campaign is not about Internet sex is wrong or bad. It is all about what you are doing has a couple of downfalls. One of them is this: we are not using language as accurately as we think we are."

The campaign also has its own Web site, Be-clear.org, which will go live on June 20, the day before the ads are put up in the station.

"We are asking men to realize we are all guessing here when we use these words and that increases the risk of HIV transmission if you are not truly clear," said Cabra.

In July, health officials are launching another online site called InSpot.org. The Web site will allow men to send anonymously via e-mail, STD partner notification postcards informing their sex partners they tested positive for an STD and that they should also get tested.

AOL boycott?

Just as some restaurants' food safety records can be better than others, online sex sites that cater to gay men can also vary in quality. Several, contend health officials, should be avoided at all costs.

Exasperated with those Internet sites that have refused over the years to respond to outbreaks of STDs among their users, health officials are speaking out against those companies they hold to be irresponsible in dealing with these health risks. Stopping short of calling for a full boycott of some sites, they are alerting gay men to the fact that they should think twice about giving their business to those Internet companies

health officials maintain do not care enough about the health of their users.

"Gay.com, Manhunt.net, and Craigslist are very willing to collaborate with health departments to protect the health of their users. But some sites, like M4M4Sex.com and AOL keep stating there is nothing they can do, that it is not their responsibility. Unfortunately, their lack of efforts continue to result in the transmission of HIV and STDs," said Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, director of STD prevention for the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

In particular, Klausner has been most vocal against AOL, which he threatened to sue earlier this year. While he is now backing away from bringing litigation against the company, he is saying gay men should not utilize the on-line service.

"We have not been able to affect anything specifically in terms of AOL educating their members or making their members aware of continued syphilis and other STDs associated with men meeting partners in AOL chat rooms," said Klausner in a recent interview with the Bay Area Reporter. "My recommendation at this point is people should not use AOL if they are concerned about protecting their sexual health and, probably for solidarity within the community, people should seek other Internet service providers who are making appropriate efforts to educate users and actively encourage a healthy community."

Calls to AOL seeking comment were not returned.

Steven Tierney, the city's director of HIV prevention, said he has yet to see any evidence that AOL is "any worse than the rest of them or any better" but added that he agreed people should make choices of where they give their money based on a company's efforts to protect the health of its clients.

"I always support gay men and everyone else doing business with people who respect our health and respect our community," said Tierney, who pointed to local Web sites safesexcity.com and blow-buddies.com as ones responsible to the needs of the gay community. "Organizing a boycott against AOL on some levels makes sense. It is so big it would deliver a message."

Other companies receive praise for addressing concerns of health officials. In January, after an outbreak of syphilis was traced to a cluster of Manhunt.net users, health officials contacted the company to alert them to the problem. In response, Manhunt officials began talking with Klausner and Levine about what they could do to help.

The company now runs a banner ad for free that shows two men wrapped in towels touching each other's leg in a sauna. Text alerts Manhunt users that "Syphilis is back in San Francisco." By clicking on the ad it takes men directly to the City Clinic online

STD testing page.

Levine noted the company provided health officials with a free online profile in order to contact Manhunt users whose sexual partners had tested positive for syphilis. She said they are now working with the company to implement other changes to its site.

"We talked to them about adding in their profiles a place for safer sex preference and having health information on their disclaimer page," she said. "We have done this on Craigslist, which was able to add a public health message that says 'Having sex with multiple partners puts you at higher risk for an STD.' It clicks through to a safer sex forum."

Ever since the Cambridge-based, gay-owned Manhunt launched, officials have worked closely to address STD and HIV prevention issues related to its site. Last October, the company ran ads in Boston's gay paper that depicted the state of Massachusetts with a condom over Cape Cod and the theme "Get It On Play Safe." It gives gay health groups free ad space and allows outreach workers to enter its profile listings. In contrast, AOL charged the city \$10,000 a month to post banner ads.

Don Harpin, in charge of operations for Manhunt, told the B.A.R. the company "is trying to be proactive and stay on top of" health issues confronting its users.

"Being gay-owned, we want to look after each other," said Harpin. "We put these ads out there free of charge. We are not making money placing syphilis ads."

But Levine hopes the Web site will do even more than just post free ads. To date the company has refused to add a disclaimer like Craigslist and has yet to commit to posting safe sex content on its own site.

"They said they would consider it but they have not come back to us and said 'That's great,'" said Levine. "I am happy they seem open and that we have discussions, but I feel like some sites are much more open. Sex4hotmen.net changed its community rules to include members' sexual health."

PlanetOut Partners, probably the largest gay Internet company, has aggressively tackled STD and HIV prevention with its Web sites PlanetOut.com and Gay.com. In its chat rooms, ads about safe sex are ubiquitous and its Web content contains volumes about the subject. The company also features a column by Klausner where he answers people's questions about sex. It is the second most popular feature behind the Web sites' job postings, said company officials.

"We feel that anybody who wants to message our members about safer sex, STDs, HIV, or AIDS is working for the good of our members and the good of our community," said editor-in-chief Beth Callaghan. "We don't

next page ▶

COMMUNITY NEWS

Internet sex

◀ previous page

think anything that is in the best interest of our members is bad for business."

While health officials' concerns may fall on deaf ears with sites such as AOL, members' complaints may be listened to, said Levine and Klausner.

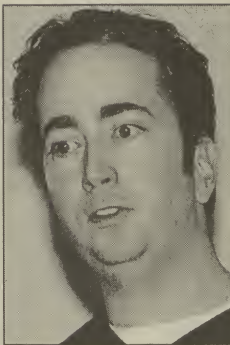
"The gay hookup sites definitely listen to their membership. Send them feedback such as 'While I am here what are the risks of hooking up with your membership?' 'Do you care about your members' health?' Or just tell them we would not want to get an STD from this site," suggested Levine. "If administrators hear that they will be more responsive working with nonprofits and public health departments around the country."

Tackling 'takeout'

These latest efforts are part of a growing shift of HIV prevention from the bars and streets of gay neighborhoods to the cyberspace world gay men have not only created in the last 10 years but increasingly embraced as a normal way to meet other men.

Gay health organizations and public health officials have long used the Internet as a tool in their outreach efforts. But as the number of sex sites expands and a larger pool of gay men log on, these online efforts are taking on a greater significance.

The choices for men online are endless. Sites cater to all kinds of body types, such as bigmuscle.com, and to play preferences, like barebackcity.com. At this year's Center for AIDS Pre-



Gregory Rebchook

vention Studies conference, a panel discussion highlighted the impact of these sites on men's health and the work being done online by health educators.

"The Internet is a widely available and a popular tool among men who have sex with men to meet sexual partners. It is a vector for syphilis outbreaks," said Greg Rebchook, a CAPS researcher who has studied have community-based organizations across the country are using the Internet to reach MSM with prevention messages. "Many of us feel the Internet will be making great strides in the next generation of HIV prevention strategies."

Use of the Internet has been a key way for younger gay men to meet sexual partners and studies have found those men who cruise online have more sexual partners and engage in riskier sexual behavior. In one national survey of 585 young gay men, 25 percent said they used the Internet to meet a sex partner within the past two

months and the average number of online partners was 3.8. The survey found that 37 percent of the men had unprotected anal intercourse with their Internet partners.

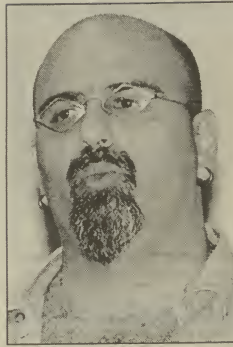
"Guys using the Internet are more likely to have unsafe sex," said Rebchook.

But there is a market out there for sites that do cater to men who practice safe sex. Frank Strona launched the safesexcity.com site last year to help men who do not want to engage in unsafe practices meet other men. Six months after the site went live, Strona revamped it to meet the needs of its growing list of members.

"They didn't want to meet to hookup first all the time. They wanted to have a conversation first," Strona said during the conference. "We are creating more of a dating service, which we didn't think we were going to do."

Defining the 'menu'

The new ad campaign is also a response to what gay men told health officials is their number one concern: confusion in communicating with other men online.



Frank Strona

Cabra and Andy Williams, a social marketing designer, interviewed more than a dozen gay men and worked with a community advisory board to develop the new campaign.

"It is not like it was 10 years ago where very few people were aware of" the Internet, said Williams. "Men have expanded their social life on to this communication environment on the In-

ternet. It has its own set of culture and own language."

Yet no one has really addressed how to define and read that language. Until now.

"I do think there is a real need for clarification of the terms we are using," said Levine. "It is really important to put it out there and say to the San Francisco community 'Yes there is confusion about these terms. It is not just you.'"

In the end, health officials hope the campaign makes it easier for gay men not only to read the Internet's sex menu but also make better decisions when ordering up a partner.

"We just have to build confidence in sexual communication and negotiating a sexual encounter so each person feels comfortable negotiating with their sex partners and the type of sex they have," said Levine. "That is not to say you must do this and must do that, but to say it is okay to talk about it and talk about the details." ▼

Next week: Examining if online prevention works.

San Jose Pride

◀ page 3

annual Gay Pride Parade.

This year's parade grand marshals include Marina Gatto, the heterosexual teenage LGBT activist who lives on the Peninsula with her two lesbian moms. Gatto was grand marshal of San Francisco's Pride last year and has been featured on talk shows and in media outlets nationwide as a voice of equality for all families.

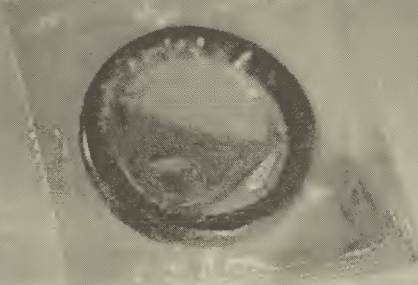
Barbara Hopple and Clay Wilson will also share grand marshal honors for their work in the LGBT senior community; and *OutNow* newsmagazine publisher Mark Gillard will be recognized for his decades of service.

The parade will wrap up with the annual Gay Pride Festival at Discovery Meadow, an event which runs from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and features the headlining performers on the main stage; a Latino cultural and dance area; a country-western dance area; a

new "Senior Grove"; a community dance tent; a "Leather Alley"; and numerous vendors and booths. More than 12,000 people are expected to attend the festival. Tickets to Sunday's event are \$13 at the gate, or \$10 advance tickets are available for purchase at the Community Day on Saturday.

Volunteers are welcome, as are vendors. For vendor booth information call (831) 338-2578. For more information on the event, or to volunteer, call (408) 278-5563 or visit www.sjgaypride.org. ▼

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Reagan legacy

◀ page 14

McBride, who used to run the now-defunct LIFE Lobby, strongly disagreed with that sentiment. She told the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday that she holds Reagan responsible for the death of millions.

"He's the one person I hold responsible for the epidemic becoming a pandemic," McBride said. "Basically, he turned his back on us."

McBride lived in San Francisco during those early years, and by her own count has lost more than 100 friends to the disease.

"I remember from San Francisco when people were dying by the boatload every week," she said.

All the while, she continued, Reagan certainly knew of friends in the entertainment industry who were dying of AIDS.

"We anguished over the fact that we couldn't get him to give us leadership," she said. "We had to do that."

As a result, San Francisco created its own healthcare system, she said, with nonprofits springing up to provide much needed services.

"He had an opportunity over several years to make a difference," McBride said.

While the AIDS issue may be most prominent among those in the community who are critical of Reagan, others pointed out that as California governor in the late 1960s and 1970s Reagan signed a law allowing women to seek an abortion in certain circumstances before the procedure was legalized in the *Roe v. Wade* U.S. Supreme Court case.

Additionally, after he left the governor's office, in 1978, Reagan opposed the Briggs initiative that

would have banned gays from teaching in California public schools. Some have noted that this opposition, from a prominent Republican former chief executive, helped lead to the defeat of Proposition 6, as it was called, in November 1978. The late supervisor Harvey Milk campaigned hard against the initiative, as did many other gay and lesbian activists.

"History will recount that Reagan's silence through the early years of the HIV epidemic was shameful and resulted in unnecessary loss and suffering," Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) told the *B.A.R.* Monday evening. "At the same time, it should be noted that as governor he signed the first law in the country protecting a woman's right to choose and later opposed the hateful Briggs initiative, Proposition 6. He was a complex fellow." ▼

Ronald Reagan

◀ page 14

not of politics.

Reagan was the darling of social conservatives, despite being an inconsistent adherent to their norms. He is the only divorced man to serve as president. His years in Hollywood and exposure to gays in the movie industry left him about as comfortable with homosexuals as a man of his generation was likely to be. The first gay couple known to have spent the night as guests at the White House was longtime family friends interior decorator Ted Garber and his partner, Archie Case.

More importantly, in 1978 as a former governor when he could have kept his views private, Reagan spoke out forcefully against the Briggs initiative. That right-wing ballot measure in California would have allowed any teacher to be fired for "advocating, imposing, encouraging or promoting" homosexual activity. Most observers credit Reagan's opposition as a key factor in defeat of the initiative by more than a million votes.

Courts

A president often has his most lasting — and often unintended — legacy in his nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court, as they serve long after the man has left office. For example, the 1986 affirmation of

viciously antigay sodomy laws was penned by Justice Byron White, President John F. Kennedy's sole appointee to the court.

Reagan's judicial legacy continues today. Antonin Scalia is the court's most controversial sitting member and a vociferously acerbic critic of equal rights for gay Americans. Yet if Reagan is to be held accountable for the conservative nominee in 1986, Democrats were completely acquiescent in the 98-0 confirmation (with two Republicans absent) of Scalia to the bench and must share in that accountability.

Ironically it is Scalia's very comments on gay-related cases that have contributed to his becoming marginalized by his colleagues on the court.

Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman and Reagan's first nominee on the court, has turned out to be a centrist swing vote who often has supported gay cases. William H. Rehnquist already was serving on the court when Reagan elevated him to chief justice.

The acrimonious battle over Robert Bork and the Senate's 58-42 rejection of him led to the nomination of Douglas Ginsburg, who withdrew from consideration after nine days when he admitted to having smoked marijuana. That set the stage for Reagan's final nominee, the moderate conservative Anthony Kennedy, who breezed through the Senate on a unanimous vote.

Kennedy has surprised virtual-

ly everyone by becoming a champion of the rights of gay Americans. He wrote the two watershed legal opinions in the field: *Romer v. Evans*, in 1996, which struck down Colorado's Amendment 2 that prohibited legal protections for gays; and *Lawrence v. Texas*, the 2003 ruling that eliminated all state sodomy laws. His language in those decisions was unusually broad and inclusive.

Kennedy dealt with the odious 1986 Supreme Court decision that had affirmed the constitutionality of state same-sex sodomy laws by declaring in clear, blunt language: "Bowers was not correct when it was decided, and it is not correct today. It ought not to remain binding precedent. *Bowers v. Hardwick* should be and now is overruled." The court seldom so clearly admits its mistakes.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund attorney Ruth Harlow said, "What Justice Kennedy replaced [*Bowers*] with is a resounding celebration of all of our liberties, all of our privacy. Gay Americans and straight Americans alike now have the right, made explicit by this court, to make their own private decisions about how they express their love for their partners."

Those two decisions supply much of the legal foundation in extending the battle for full marriage rights and equality under the law. Neither Reagan nor his critics could have anticipated that when Kennedy was nominated. ▼

Castro bars

◀ page 2

to new owners who have moved to make cosmetic changes such as new outdoor seating but retain the food and ambiance of the restaurant-cum-coffeehouse so as not to upset its regular clientele, explained Pausa. Under the proposed changes, Pausa stressed the business is keeping its customer base in mind.

By adding music at night, Pausa stressed Cafe Flore "is not going to become a dance club." Instead, musicians such as a violinist, cellist, and harpist would play in the evenings during the week.

"The plan is to have acoustical music after the dinner crowd falls off," said Pausa. "The harpist is a regular who comes in to practice. We have had a really good response to it."

The cafe would like to begin serving signature martini drinks after 5 p.m. and then after 9 p.m. have full cocktail service with cocktail servers. Added to the menu would be Bloody Marys

during brunch and Irish coffee.

"We were supposed to have this completed in February but it now looks like it will be in September," said Pausa of when the changes would go into effect.

The cafe is going to new summer hours this week, with the kitchen remaining open to 10 p.m. and the cafe till 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and till midnight Fridays and Saturdays. In September the bar would be open from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

By this fall Natali said he hopes to have construction under way on a new bar and restaurant at the old Patio space on Castro Street between 18th and 19th streets. The restaurant and retail spaces have been shuttered for years, after Natali closed the business to remodel it but then saw the project stall.

This week he said he has an architect working on changes to his original plans for the space after meeting with Supervisor Bevan Dufty on Memorial Day to discuss the new restaurant and bar. The plan calls for opening up the front of the building as a bar area and

outdoor seating area.

There will also be new retail spaces, and Natali said Dufty expressed concerns in the meeting about the look of the interior.

"Bevan's idea is to open up the two buildings so you see a more mall-like kind of look where this big space is divided into smaller spaces inside," said Natali. Before, patrons walked down a hallway past two retail shops to reach the restaurant, which is actually the backyard of the next door building.

As for the restaurant, he said he plans to serve inexpensive "comfort food" in a tropical setting, with the back area retaining the old Patio's garden motif and outdoor seating area.

"It will be like Harvey's where you have food in a bar," said Natali who likened the proposed seating area in front to what David Weiss put in at his Market Street restaurant Catch.

"At the present time we do have a building permit but I am submitting a revised plan and will be revising the permit," said Natali. "I hope to start construction by the fall if not sooner." ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Osbournes come to SF



Kelly Osbourne, left, and her mother, Sharon, attended the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's annual Media Awards in San Francisco Saturday, June 5. Sharon Osbourne presented Will & Grace star Megan Mullally with GLAAD's Golden Gate Award for her efforts to combat homophobia. Other stars who attended included actor Alan Cumming, author Clive Barker, television star Hal Sparks, and actress Tippi Hedren. Surprise guest Robin Williams presented a special award to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom in recognition of his decision to have the city issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Allen Day
February 28, 1958 — June 22, 2003

Allen Day died way too soon, at the tender age of 45. He was a sweet, gentle man who was always trying to stay one step ahead of the many demons that chased him throughout his life. Although his death was the result of a tragic accident, it was wonderful to those who knew him well that he was maintaining the one-step advantage at the end. As a result of the deaths of his parents and three of his siblings as well as other circumstances, he died without connection to any of his family. Instead, Allen developed a family of care providers to whom he looked for help, solace and friendship.

Notwithstanding his telling one of his providers that he felt defeated most of the time, he also was quite clear to all those who knew him that he would not and did not allow feelings of self-pity to diminish his search for the better life. It was this indomitable spirit that endeared him to those closest to him. And when he did finally achieve stability, it was a joy to see him genuinely appreciating the simple pleasures of life that we so often take for granted, from anything so basic as taking a shower in his own apartment to just lying in bed and watching a movie. His joy and gratitude

for these simple luxuries inspired those around him to be joyful and grateful about their own lives.

We sincerely hope and expect that Allen has found the peace that eluded him too often in life. Gifts in his memory to the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center will be most appreciated.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Coming soon! BAR on the web: eBAR.com

News in brief

◀ page 4

and the Pride Parade on Sunday. The festival grand marshal is Arcata Mayor Bob Omelas.

Sunday's parade departs Stewart Park (16th and J streets) at noon, ending at Arcata Plaza, site of the afternoon festival. For more information, visit www.humboldtpride.org.

Face to Face marks 20 years

Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network will commemorate its 20th anniversary with an event Sunday, June 13 at the Mary Agatha Furth Center, 8400 Old Redwood Highway, in Windsor. The reunion and celebration take place from 5-7:30 p.m. and admission is \$20.

"Proof Positive: 20 Years of Meeting the AIDS Challenge" will be a remembrance and celebration of the agency that first formed in 1984 to train volunteers to provide bedside care to people living with AIDS. Dr. Marshall Kubota, Sonoma County's early pioneer and highly regarded AIDS/HIV physician, will be the keynote speaker. Resolutions from various governmental bodies will be presented in honor of Face to Face's two decades of service, and a video history of AIDS activism in Sonoma County will be shown.

Executive Director Rick Dean also noted that, as part of its 20th anniversary, Face to Face will launch the Proof Positive Fund, which will honor the spirit of the organization's founders who acted on their beliefs with passion and commitment. The fund will be dedicated to direct care and HIV prevention work.

For more information, call (707) 544-1581 or visit www.f2f.org.

Center café to open

After waiting more than two years, the LGBT Community Center in San Francisco will finally have a café. The Three Dollar Bill Café, owned and operated by Vince Constabileo and Peter Howells (who recently married in San Francisco), will mark its grand opening Tuesday, June 15 with a benefit for the center and Equality California celebrating same-sex marriage. The café is located on the ground floor of the LGBT center at 1800 Market Street. The party takes place from

7-10 p.m. and there is a \$10 suggested donation, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Donna Sachet will serve as "maid of honor" and DJ Anita Lofton will spin the tunes. The café will also show a video display of images from the photography exhibition "Spouses for Life" presented by the Queer Cultural Center and Bay Area Community of Women.

The LGBT center, which opened in March 2002, has long attempted to secure an owner/operator for the café. Executive Director Thom Lynch made the café a priority when he took over a year ago.

For more information, visit www.threedollarbill.com.

Spectrum Center awards

Spectrum Center for LGBT Concerns will honor the Marin County Board of Supervisors for over two decades of leadership on equal partnership rights for same-gender couples at its "Circle of Friends" event on Tuesday, June 15.

The event comes several months after the supervisors' historic vote endorsing equal marriage rights for same-sex couples. The resolution, presented by District 1 Supervisor Susan Adams, also opposed President Bush's proposed Federal Marriage Amendment.

Tuesday's event takes place from 5:30-8 p.m. at Giorgio's Ristorante, 300 Drake's Landing Road, in Greenbrae. Advance tickets are \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. For more information, visit www.spectrummarin.org.

KQED Pride event

In recognition of LGBT Pride Month, KQED public broadcasting and Kaiser Permanente will host an awards ceremony honoring six local heroes Wednesday, June 16. This year's honorees include Larry Brinkin and Cynthia Goldstein of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission's LGBT and HIV unit; Stephen Kellogg, gay men's Buddhist Sangha; Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, pioneer lesbian activists; and Willie Walker of the GLBT Historical Society.

The awards ceremony takes place from 6-8:30 p.m. at the KQED Broadcasting Center, 2601 Mariposa Street, in San Francisco. Space is limited, and interested community members should

RSVP to (415) 553-2382.

In addition to the local hero awards, KQED will air more than 40 LGBT-related television and radio programs throughout the month. For program listings and schedules, visit www.kqed.org.

Public forum on Iraq

The Noe Valley Democratic Club will present a public forum on the war in Iraq Wednesday, June 16, from 7:30-9 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street, between 23rd and Elizabeth. Entitled "Iraq: What's Next?" the forum, which is free, will feature panelists Catherine Dodd, district director for Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco); Major General Mike Myatt, U.S. Marines (ret.), CEO of the Marines Memorial; Dr. Nezar Alsayyad, chair of the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of California, Berkeley; and Ayad al-Qazzaz, professor of sociology at California State University, Sacramento. Club President Rafael Mandelman will moderate the forum. For more information, call (415) 206-0231.

GLAAD panel on Araujo trial

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation will host a community forum on the Gwen Araujo murder trial Wednesday, June 16. Jury deliberations began in the case last week, and at press time a verdict had not been announced. Three men — Jason Cazares, Michael Magidson, and Jose Merel — are charged with murder and a hate crime enhancement in the October 2002 death of Araujo, 17, a transgender teenager.

The event takes place from 6-7:30 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, in San Francisco. Panelists include Jim Hammer, former San Francisco prosecutor; Yomi Wronge, a staff reporter for the *San Jose Mercury News*; JoAnne Keatley, project director of the Transgender Resource and Neighborhood Space program at the University of California, San Francisco's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies; and Saifa Wall, a community organizer with the Gay-Straight Alliance Network. Issues such as media coverage, the trial, and how to make schools safer for transgender youth will be discussed.

For ASL services at the event, contact Chris Daley at (415) 865-0176 by June 11.

'Fresh Meat' next week

"Fresh Meat 2004," the trans and queer cabaret extravaganza, kicks off its opening night gala reception next Thursday, June 17 at the ODC Theatre, 3153 17th Street, at Shotwell in San Francisco. The reception takes place after the show, which starts at 8 p.m. Shows also take place June 18 and 19.

Fresh Meat is billed as exceptional transgender and queer performance, including homo hip-hop, tranny glam rock, all-girl breakdance, gender-defying modern dance, and much more.

Tickets are \$15 for each show. For reservations, call (415) 863-9834. Tickets can be purchased online at www.ticketweb.com. ▼

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Quite a racquet

Gay tennis tournaments open up the courts

by Jim Provenzano

Tennis tournaments are at their peak in the summer, offering GLBT athletes a chance to perfect their swings and serves.

This very individual sport retains a strong sense of community. Players who have just met and longtime opponents play together in doubles. Sometimes, instructors even play against their students.

Over Memorial Day weekend, Washington, D.C., New York, and San Francisco hosted large tournaments. San Francisco's Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation is one of the oldest of gay tennis groups, having hosted one of the first national gay tournaments, the United States Gay Open.

In the men's open singles, Curtis Dunn defeated Kerry Mitchell,

7-6, 7-5. "We hadn't played in a tournament, but we practice every week," said Dunn, who takes lessons from Mitchell. "We know each other's game inside and out."

When asked just after his victory if his goal was to defeat his coach, Dunn said, "No, I just wanted to come out and play well."

Mitchell, who's won the men's singles for several consecutive years, joked, "You wanted to beat me!"

Mitchell recalled the early years of gay tennis, when San Francisco was one of the only cities hosting tournaments. "Then Los Angeles and Atlanta got one," he said. "Everybody traveled to those, because they were big events. The ones that were established first are still the bigger events."

Upcoming events in San Diego

(July 3-5), Vancouver (August 3-5), and Atlanta (September 3-6) will each attract hundreds of players. Mitchell estimates there are up to 25 gay tournaments annually. "Other clubs have their own tournaments and bring people in," he

said, adding that many players, however, limit their travels to tournaments near their home cities.

Diane Lebow and Claudia Diorio traveled from Seattle to San Francisco and competed together in the women's pairs, making it to the finals. They credit the Seattle Tennis Association

with getting them on the courts.

"I didn't get serious until I joined the STA," said Lebow. "It was a way to play tennis but also meet other gay and lesbian people."

They'll be playing in Seattle's Evergreen 2004 tournament, held July 2-4. As in most tournaments, a wide range of categories offers opportunities for all skill levels.

Diorio didn't play any sports until picking up a tennis racket five years ago. To improve, "I started working out with a trainer to have stronger muscles," she said.

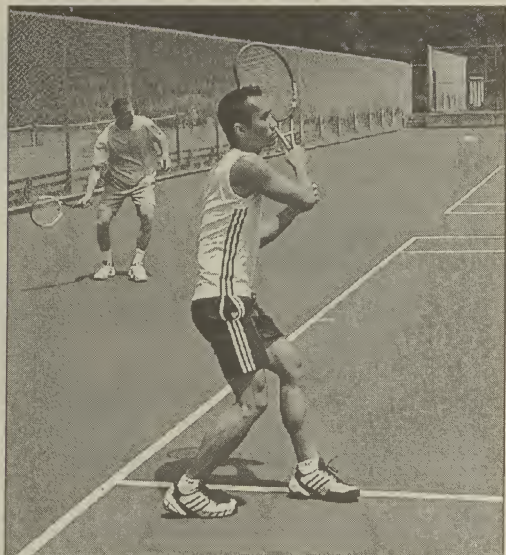
One of the few women's tournaments, the upcoming Bayou Women's Tennis Tournament in New Orleans, held in October, is high on Diorio's to-do list. When asked if she knows if the event is lesbian-focused, she smiled. "I don't know, honey, but I just know it's all women!"

Such an event has a big draw in a sport where, surprisingly, female participation remains limited.

"I think a lot of lesbians have self-esteem issues. Sometimes, competition is difficult for them," said Diorio. "Maybe they can't afford it. But it's not like tennis is an expensive sport. You play outside for free."

But when it comes to competition, Lebow suspects that travel and entry fees may be a hindrance to lesbian participation.

Age plays a factor as well. "A lot of lesbians, when they're younger, play softball or basketball," said



Mike Vuong, foreground, plays doubles with Brian Sinclair at San Francisco's U.S. Gay Open.

Lebow. "They pick up tennis or golf when they're older. They're also a little more settled down. The average age of women playing at this tournament is in their 30s or 40s."

But both women agree that tennis is a sport that can be played at any age, and at plenty of recreational tournaments that aren't specifically gay. "But I love the fact that this is a gay open," said Diorio.

Part of the gay aspect is a certain level of campy fun at social events. At this year's GLTF banquet, comedian Mark Davis told tennis jokes, and a silent auction and raffle for prizes (including adult DVDs and Barbie dolls) covered costs and raised funds for local AIDS charities.

One of the attendees at both the banquet and tournament was Mike Vuong. He played doubles with Brian Sinclair, whom he met at a previous tournament in Sinclair's hometown of Portland.

"I'd seen him play, and our styles complement one another," says Vuong. "Brian usually plays on the outside. I like to play on the deuce side. He's a great server. I love to return at the baseline [nearer to the net]."

A native San Franciscan, Vuong wasn't openly gay until his

20s, and he credits tennis with helping him come out.

"It was 1997," Vuong recalled. "It had been raining for two months. It finally stopped, so I drove to a tennis court, and saw two guys who happened to be gay. They introduced me to the GLTF, and I've been playing with them ever since. So, they helped me come out. It was great." ▼

For previous columns, visit www.sportscomplex.org.

Online links

Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation
www.gltf.org/

Atlanta's Peach International Tennis Championship
<http://www.atta.org/thepeach>
San Diego Tennis Federation
www.sdtf.org

Seattle Evergreen 2004
www.teamseattle.org/sta

Bayou Women's Tennis Club
(504) 943-4807
pugdal@msn.com

Vancouver International Pride Tennis Tournament
viptennis@canada.com

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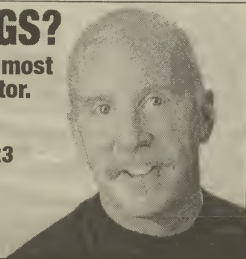
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AIDS/LifeCycle riders take off



Approximately 1,600 riders, including Pat Christen, the outgoing executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, right, departed Sunday, June 6 on the third annual AIDS/LifeCycle ride that benefits SFAF and the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center. The cyclists are in the midst of the 585-mile ride that will end in Los Angeles on Saturday, June 12. AIDS/LifeCycle raised \$4.9 million this year, up 20 percent from 2003.

Rick Gerhart

COMMUNITY NEWS

NGLTF, Woodhull announce sex law study

by Liz Highleyman

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Woodhull Freedom Foundation announced in late May a joint effort to study the nation's sex laws.

The project, formally announced May 28, has the dual goal of educating Americans about how many antiquated sex laws remain on the books – and how often they are used in a discriminatory manner against LGBT people and other sexual minorities – and providing activists with organizing tools they need to change such laws.

"Most Americans are unaware of the sex laws in this country and how those laws are used to selectively persecute individuals simply for their private and consensual sexual expression," said Mary Frances Berry, chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and a Woodhull board member.

"Even as the LGBT movement focuses on marriage, the fight for sexual freedom remains impor-

tant," NGLTF Executive Director Matt Foreman told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a phone interview Tuesday, June 8. Despite last summer's U.S. Supreme Court's *Lawrence* decision, which declared Texas' sodomy law unconstitutional, "we still have a long fight for societal equality ahead of us," said Foreman. "Changing the laws is just a small part of the battle."

Among the many dated and sometimes bizarre laws the project will address are myriad laws against "public lewdness," Michigan's statute prohibiting cohabitation by unmarried couples, and the differing age of consent laws in Kansas for people with same-sex versus opposite-sex partners.

The constitutionality of the Kansas law is currently under reconsideration by that state's Supreme Court based on the case of Matthew Limon, who was sentenced to 17 years in prison for performing consensual oral sex on a 14-year-old male fellow resident of a group home when Limon had just turned 18. Under the law's so-



NGLTF's Matt Foreman

called Romeo and Juliet provision, had Limon's partner been female, his sentence likely would have been less than two years. The American Civil Liberties Union appealed the verdict to the U.S. Supreme Court, which directed the state court to review the case in light of the *Lawrence* decision.

The NGLTF/Woodhull project will examine how sex laws have been selectively used to target minorities; results will be released at the task force's 17th annual Creating Change conference in St. Louis in November.

The second phase of the effort will formulate policy recommendations and strategies for grassroots activists seeking to overturn such laws or change how they are enforced.

"It will be very important to know what laws are still on which books and in which states," Triangle Foundation Executive Director and Woodhull board member Jeff Montgomery told the *B.A.R.* "These are precisely the kinds of laws that are used to regulate and criminalize gays and lesbians, and getting rid of them is essential if we are all to be treated equally and with respect."

The sex law study, which grew out of a recent meeting with leather community leaders, is part of an NGLTF effort to promote closer ties with sexual freedom advocates. At last month's Interna-

tional Mr. Leather contest in Chicago, Foreman acknowledged the leather/SM community "[f]or being out front and proud – when so many others have been and still are cowering in closets – pushing the envelope and making it so much easier for those of us who work on the inside to press forward for equal rights."

In addition to the joint project with the Woodhull Foundation – an organization formed in 2003 to promote the idea that safe and consensual sexual expression is a fundamental human right – NGLTF will make a donation to help pay off the mortgage of the Leather Archives and Museum and provide scholarships to enable national leather titleholders to attend Creating Change. Foreman promised that this year's NGLTF conference will include a full track of workshops devoted to sexual freedom and will feature an as-yet-unnamed plenary speaker who will address how the LGBT movement is "close to losing its sexual freedom agenda." ▼

Araujo trial

◀ page 3

rare, she testified, because "that death takes place very quickly. There isn't time for them to form."

Van Meter's testimony also said that the blunt force trauma to the head alone did not kill Araujo. The strangulation, however, was fatal, Van Meter testified. She was unable to confirm whether there was a struggle.

When Van Meter received the

body, according to the testimony, it was tied with numerous lengths of rope around the face, abdomen, knees, arms, wrists, and neck. There was also fabric in the victim's mouth. Her hands were bound, and there were some complex knots.

During her testimony, Van Meter talked about a linear curvature of one of the lacerations on Araujo's head, which might back up Nabors's testimony of Araujo being hit with a soup can, a blow reportedly delivered by Merel.

Supporters of Araujo who were

in court during the read back remain cautiously optimistic that it was a good sign. At several points, the jurors seemed satisfied with hearing the prosecution's portion of the read back and almost didn't listen to the cross-examination portion of Van Meter's testimony. Upon cross-examination, the jury heard Tony Serra, Cazares's lawyer, ask Van Meter questions about the length of Araujo's skirt.

The defendants' family members were not in court Wednesday morning. ▼

Pink triangle

◀ page 12

help.

The display lasts for two days, and volunteers will be needed again to dismantle the pink triangle on Sunday, June 27, from 5 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Volunteers are encouraged to come for any amount of time, as every minute donated helps, according to Patrick Carney, a founding member of Friends of the Pink Triangle, the organization that oversees the project.

Without all the necessary volunteers, the project would never get off the ground, said Carney,

and the public would not have such a large-scale reminder of the dangers of hatred and prejudice.

"What happened in the Holocaust must not be forgotten and must not be repeated," said a statement from Carney. "There are those who still insist that hate crimes do not exist and people are not targeted for being gay, Jewish, black, or other minorities. As they say, 'Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it.'"

Those who want to celebrate Pride by giving back to the community can find extensive directions to the pink triangle installation – as well as more information about the project – at www.thepinktriangle.com. ▼

AIDS czar

◀ page 12

mayor's office will provide him with office space in City Hall, administrative support, and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses. Sheehy has agreed to comply with both state and local public meeting and records laws.

He is still determining if he will have office hours or how he will meet with various AIDS groups and concerned citizens. While he said there is no money to host a large summit, as was done in the past, he did not rule out hosting a town hall style meeting.

"I do see there is some way to collect input but how that takes place is going to be restricted by money," said Sheehy. "There has to be some process of setting up what we want to find out and figuring out what input we need."

He has said he sees his role as defining what role a full-time AIDS czar should play. Ultimately, Sheehy would like to see a full-time, paid AIDS czar be hired as part of Newsom's administration when the city's economy improves.

When such a person can be hired remains unclear.

"Who can predict when the budget will improve? What if John Kerry becomes president, then we

could be in a completely different environment in a year from now," Sheehy said.

Originally created by former Mayor Willie Brown in 1997, when he tapped the late Dick Pabich as his first unpaid AIDS czar, the policy role then became a paid position with Bill Barnes, currently an aide to Supervisor Chris Daly, and Mike Shriver, who took a medical leave of absence from the job in the fall of 2001, assuming the role. When Newsom became mayor, Joe Caruso, the director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and liaison to the LGBT community, assumed the title. ▼

Bethany

◀ page 12

husband, wife," she emphasized during a recent lecture. "If gay men and lesbians have learned anything these past few months, it is that separate is never equal."

In the letter to the same-sex couples, Bethany members Jeff Friant and Bruce Pettit also urged financial support for Oliveto's legal counsel and expert witnesses in fighting the complaint.

"Bethany intends, by being a prophetic witness in our city and nation, to stop any effort to lift her credentials," they wrote. "Half of Bethany is gay and lesbian, and all in our church support Reverend Oliveto's actions."

The official United Methodist position is that people of all sexu-

al orientations are welcome in the church, but that the church "does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." The church also defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

That position was confirmed at the quadrennial United Methodist General Conference in Pittsburgh in April. Conflict over the issue of same-sex marriage – along with the ordination and appointment of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" as ministers – has caused some conservative church leaders to call for a split in the denomination. Methodists divided over the issue of slavery in the mid-1800s, but reunited in 1939; there has not been a split since.

"Repeatedly they have spoken of the need to get our church in

step with our culture," stated the Reverend Dr. William Hinson of Houston (no relation to the Bill Hinson married by Oliveto). "We, on the other hand, have no desire to be the chaplain to an increasingly godless society."

Oliveto blasted the conference's antigay stance, calling it "arrogant and offensive."

"Extending marriage rights to gay and lesbian persons will not spell the decline of the institution of marriage," said Oliveto. "Extending those rights to slaves did not spell its decline. Extending those rights to interracial couples did not spell its decline." ▼

For more information on Sunday's celebration, call (415) 647-8393 or visit www.bethanysf.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT -

Solicitation No. 04-620-IFB-015

The San Francisco Housing Authority will accept sealed bids for Roof Replacement at CAL 1-41, 430/440 Turk Street, San Francisco. Bids are due at 1815 Egbert Avenue, Suite 300, San Francisco, at or before 2:00 PM on Tuesday, June 22, 2004.

Bid documents are available at 1815 Egbert Avenue, Suite 300. A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 is required for each copy of the bid package. Payment must be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or company check payable to the San Francisco Housing Authority. Cash will not be accepted. Call Carolina 415-715-3210. Inquiries regarding this Invitation to Bid should be directed in writing to Mr. Rene Latosa, Director of Contracts/Procurement, Fax 415-554-1258.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 430 Turk Street at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, June 8, 2004. Bidder's attention is called to requirements relating to HUD, Federal Labor Standards, and federal Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity. Rights are reserved to reject any or all bids. VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
Vacant Seat 4, must be appointed from names submitted by New California Media and be a journalist from a racial/ethnic-minority-owned news organization, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending April 27, 2005.

Bay Area Library and Information System Advisory Board
The Bay Area Library and Information System Advisory Board consists of a total of nine (9) members. Vacant Seat 1, must represent public at large and underserved residents for a two-year term ending June 30, 2006.

MAYOR'S SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM
The Department of Children, Youth and Their Families is sponsoring the Mayor's Summer Food Service Program June 14 - August 20, 2004. Free lunches will be served to any children and youth 18 years of age and younger at sites citywide. For a food service site near you, please call HELPLINK at 800-273-6222 (English), 415-808-4444 (Spanish) or 415-808-7339 (Chinese).

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION
COME PARTICIPATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION'S BROWN BAG LUNCH TALKS at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 (second floor), Thursdays, Noon to 1:30 P.M.

The Department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks presented at no charge to the public and City staff. Bring your lunch; coffee and other drinks will be provided. June 17, 2004 Appeals of permits and decisions

Department of Building Inspection and Planning Department staff and City Attorney
NOTE: Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions, to request materials handout, or to call and speak with department staff. Please contact Laurence Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector, Technical Services Division at (415) 558-6205 for further information.

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

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LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Notice of Funds Available
Dear Potential Applicant:
The City and County of San Francisco Department of
Human Services (DHS) is announcing the availability of
funding to provide services to poor and needy residents
of San Francisco.

Approximately \$125,000 is available to organizations
for the provision of services for the benefit of poor and
needy San Francisco residents, both families and individ-
uals. To be eligible for services supported through this
funding, families and individuals would have to have in-
comes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty
limit based upon household size and less than \$5,000 in
assets. Alternatively, persons and/or families benefiting
from funded services must meet the income eligibility
guidelines established for any of the following program:
CalWORKs, NAFS, IHSS, Medi-Cal, CAAP and/or SSI.

Please note that this funding cannot be used to supplant
existing funding for on-going projects.

A NOFA packet may be picked up at SF/DHS, Office of
Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300,
beginning June 15, 2004. Office hours are from 8:30 AM
to 5 PM.

The NOFA packet and subsequent updates may be down-
loaded from the City's website on or after June 15, 2004.
Go to: [HTTP://SUNSET.DHS.CA.US/PBIDS.NSF](http://SUNSET.DHS.CA.US/PBIDS.NSF)
and click on the Consultants and Professional Services
link to download the NOFA packet.

A Conference will be held on June 30, 2004 at 10:00 AM
at 1700 Divisadero Street, in the Board Auditorium, SF, CA. For
further information, call Kimberly Ferguson, at (415) 557-
5585.

The deadline for submitting response packets is July 15,
2004 at 4:00 PM. No Exceptions
06/10/04
CNS - 684317# - BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT FILE A-0275944-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Ocean Wash & Dry 1306 Ocean Ave.
San Francisco, CA. 94112. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Wu
Zhao Zhao. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on 04-27-
04. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, CA. on 05-
12-04.

MAY 20, 27 JUNE 3, 10 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO FILE NO. CMC 04-541342
In the Matter of the Application of Mei
Hwa Wu for Change of Name. The applica-
tion of Mei Hwa Wu for change of name,
having been filed in Court, and it appearing
from said application that Mei Hwa Wu has
filed an application proposing that his/her
name be changed to Wai Mei Young. Now
therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed,
that all persons interested in said matter do
appear before this Court in Department 218
on the 15th day of July at 9:00am of said
day to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.
MAY 20, 27 JUNE 3, 10 2004

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
AMADOU F. FALL. YOU ARE
BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: LORI
SCHMELZER, AN INDIVIDUAL.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS
after this summons is served on you
to file a typewritten response at this
court.

A letter or phone call will not protect
you; your written response must be in
proper legal form if you want the court
to hear your case.

If you do not file your Response on
time, the court may make orders af-
fecting your marriage, your property,
and custody of your children. You
may be ordered to pay support and
attorney fees and costs. If you cannot
pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a
fee waiver form. If you want legal ad-
vice, contact a lawyer immediately.
There are other legal requirements.
You may want to call an attorney
right away. If you do not know an at-
torney, you may call an attorney re-
ferral service or legal aid office (list-
ed in the phone book).

The name and address of the court is: Su-
perior Court of California
701 Ocean Street St. Santa Cruz, CA
95060. The name, address, and telephone
number of the plaintiff's attorney or plain-
tiff without attorney is: Lori Schmeltzer in
per pro
2520 Capitola Road
Santa Cruz, CA. 95062; (831)
462-4935.

MAY 20, 27 JUNE 3, 10 2004

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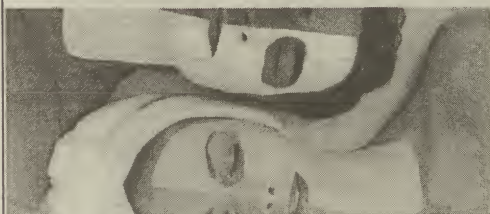
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0276024-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Mei's Jewelry Gift Shop 630 Broadway San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Vu, Hue Chi. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 05-14-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05-14-04.
MAY 20, 27 JUNE 3, 10 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541226
In the Matter of the Application of Sharon I. Joseph for Change of Name. The application of Sharon I. Joseph for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sharon I. Joseph has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Turtle Dykeart Ultraviolet. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 29th day of June at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 20, 27 JUNE 3, 10 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276090-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: S/S Neighborhood Savings Store 949 Taraval St. San Francisco, Ca. 94116-2422. This business is conducted by an individual signed San Minh Duong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 05-18-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05-18-04.
MAY 27 JUNE 3, 10, 17 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275768-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Family Billiards/DWJ Consulting 2807 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118-9407. This business is conducted by an individual signed Delbert Wong Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 05-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05-04-04.
MAY 13, 20, 27 JUNE 3 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276581-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Suzumex Luggage Transport Service 93 Leland Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Midori Yamamoto. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-07-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-07-04.
JUNE 10, 17, 24 JULY 1 2004

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: A-0276234-00
The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Yama Luggage Transport Service. Located at: 93 Leland Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business was conducted by an individual signed Midori Yamamoto. The fictitious name referred to above was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-07-04.
JUNE 10, 17, 24 JULY 1 2004

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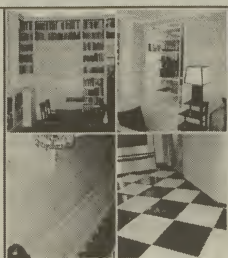
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0276461-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: ONO Memories 656 - 7th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94118-3807. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Joyce K. Wong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-03-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-03-04.
JUNE 10, 17, 24 JULY 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276408-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Resonante Music and Sound Design 615 Battery St., Ste. 500 San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Laurence J. Hyman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-01-04.
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How to appeal to the modern man
'The Male Mystique: Men's Magazine
Ads of the 1960s and '70s' is reviewed.
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Musing on music
SF Symphony & MTT are
'Keeping Score' for PBS.
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Huckleberry pinned
Jeff Calhoun directs an
unusual 'Big River' in SF.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 24 • 10 June 2004

Kidman, Midler, Close, Broderick, and Oz on Their 'Stepford' lives!



Glenn Close, Nicole Kidman, Bette Midler
and Faith Hill in *The Stepford Wives*

by Tim Nasson

Okay, *The Stepford Wives*, circa 1975, is already a cult classic. So why remake it? Director Frank Oz, the man behind the camera for the 2004 version opening on Friday, takes

umbrage when I ask him this question, during a morning I recently spent speaking to virtually the whole cast. "It's not a remake, it's a re-telling," insists Oz.

"It's a subversive, comic look at rampant consumerism and the quest for perfection," he says. "The first movie was great, so there was no need to remake it." Unlike the original, the new film is not a thriller. It

tells the story of a gated Connecticut suburb that has a secret: the unknowing wives (and one-half of a gay couple) become robots, transformed by their husbands, thanks to the brains behind the idea, Christopher Walken's Mike Wellington.

What a cast this "re-telling" boasts: Academy

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Don't start the revolution without her

Comic Margaret Cho speaks truth to power

by Gregg Shapiro

Political, radical, funny, and downright revolutionary, comic Margaret Cho's concert film *Revolution* was filmed at the Wilmette Theater in Los Angeles during her 2003 tour. Tackling subjects that have kept her near and dear to her queer fans, Cho holds forth on George Bush, patriotism, being present at the birth of a friend's child, racism, diets, gay men, and gay children, all in her inimitable style. The film plays the Frameline Fest on June 18, then airs on cable television beginning June 19.

I recently spoke with Cho about the impending election, her activist role, and *Revolution*.

Gregg Shapiro: You open *Revolution* talking

about George W. Bush. Since it was filmed a few months ago, there's been lots of news. What are your thoughts on November's election?

Margaret Cho: I think that if he's not voted out of office, it's crazy. I think the fact that he hasn't been impeached is crazy. It's so bizarre. The political landscape in America now is worse than it has ever been in the history of our nation, and it's all because of him. It's all his fault, and his cabinet's. It's so corrupt and so bad, and there's nobody to blame but him! It's awful.

They tried to impeach Clinton for having an affair, and basically, George W. Bush is wrecking the world. He is making the entire world hate us. He's destroying the lives of American citizens; he's destroying the lives of countless Iraqi citizens. I don't understand why our nation is so polarized because, really, we are paralyzed by his leadership and his misadventures in office. It's a travesty. I think it's tragic, and it's time to call for impeachment.

You were at the March for Women's Lives in Washington, DC, in April. What was that like?

It was the largest march in the history of civil

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Puppets with sex drives

Rolling over for boxers, Ronnie and Tony

by Roberto Friedman

Our deepest sympathies go out to Philly stud **Smarty Jones**, whose Triple Crown hopes were defeated by a length at the Belmont Stakes. Smarty might have been spooked by an early challenge from a colt in the race named **Rock Hard Ten**, who sounds like he has a future in the pages of *Inches* magazine.

And sure, Pard'ner, the **Ronald Reagan** years were a bright "morning in America" — if you were white, rich, straight and had a fully functioning immune system. Otherwise, it was pretty much *mourning* in America.

This week, with wall-to-wall Reagan death stories heaped atop ever-more-appalling **Bush** mush (the '80s really are back), it helps to remember, as a song title on **Morrissey's** new *You Are the Quarry* goes, "America Is Not the World." The English pop star does seem to have a soft spot in his steely heart for his chosen exile in LA; but we're a nation "where the President is never black, female or gay. And until that day, you've got nothing to say to me."

Fortunately, Tony Award winners are often black, female or gay, if not often all three at once. (Did **Zora Neale Hurston** ever win a



Moz can't keep a straight face.

Tony?) There sure was a lot of queer energy at Radio City last Sunday, beginning with host **Hugh Jackman** kicking up high-legs with the **Cocks**, or we mean the **Rockettes** in the 8 p.m. number. "I knew these long legs would come in handy someday!" remarked Hugh.

Signs of the *Avenue Q* upset were apparent from the early awards, as for example when *Q* book-writer **Jeff Whitty** won for best book of a musical. At the podium, sweet young Whitty admitted, "I'm crying, that's so embarrassing! **Steve**, I love you."

9:10 p.m. The *Avenue Q* puppet does homo-attraction *schtik* with Jackman, in effect offering to be his sex puppet. Hugh introduces his wife in the audience.

9:40 p.m. *Avenue Q* number, "It Sucks To Be Me!" CBS bleeps out the word fuck.

9:50 p.m. **Jefferson Mays** wins for best leading actor in a play. *I Am My Own Wife* is based on the true story of German transvestite **Charlotte von Mahlsdorf**, who survived both the Nazis and the Stasi. The Tonys are signaling that they're hip.

10:05 p.m. Hugh humiliates actress **Sarah Jessica Parker** by dragging her onstage to do the hoochie-coochie. Parker admits her hubby, **Matthew Broderick**, is on the other coast. HJ, leeringly: "So Matthew's bi-coastal?"

10:30 p.m. *Own Wife* wins best play. Writer **Doug Wright** on CVM: "I thought I found a hero, then I realized I found something far more profound: a human being."

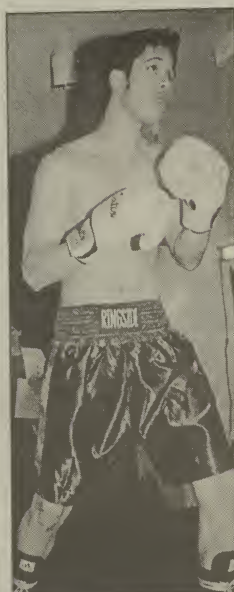
10:50 p.m. HJ dedicates his leading actor in a musical Tony to the late **Peter Allen**, a veteran of a **Liza Minnelli** marriage. Talk about a trouper.

Model behavior

Morrissey also once sang, "You without clothes: well, I could not keep a straight face. Me without clothes: well, a nation turns its back and gags!"

Out There doesn't know what in the gay heavens we were thinking when we agreed to model for *Legal Briefs*, last week's underwear fashion show/benefit for AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP) at the LGBT Community Center, except that we had nothing to lose but our modesty (and about 10 lb.) Besides, OT has taken our pants off for a good cause before, and sometimes we even know his name!

In any event, the skivvies show



Fine fighting form at Legal Briefs

turned out to be a big smash hit, raising \$13,000 for the nonprofit which provides free legal help to people living with HIV/AIDS. We asked our pal **Pepi** to be part of our "model team." He agreed, but only if we could come up with some sort of "business" to do onstage. Plus it had better not involve holding hands or girly stuff like that. "We could box, sort of spar around a bit," OT suggested, perhaps in homage to NYC writer **Jonathan Ames**, who famously boxed a match billed as "The Herring Wonder."

"But I'm afraid I'd take a real swing, and really deck you!" said Pepi. He had a point. When we found the lead-off model team stripping off in the co-ed dressing room, moreover, they turned out to be real-live boxers, and really shadow-boxing. Plus they spoke in a cute Irish brogue and had all this neat boxing gear.

The underpants models ran that rare gamut from celebrity

flesh, a bevy of **Bare Chest Calendar** men including **May** and **March** (but those are girls' names!) to political animals like lap-dancing Supervisor **Bevan Dufty**. Lesbian attorney **Leslie Caplan** walked the catwalk with her veteran showdog **Ethel** slung across her chest like a fur bra. Hello, **PETA**?

Funny girlz **Lisa Geduldig** and **Donna Sachet** gave the trenchant play-by-play, joined by funny girl Supervisor **Tom Ammannio**. Too much fun, and as model/Latina superstar **Marga Gomez** aptly noted, it's not always easy to make an event involving attorneys sexy. ALRP Director of Development **Jim McBride** said people are already calling for an annual event, staged perhaps at the Castro Theatre. Out There promises to be in the audience.

Fanny scan, tranny span

Thirtieth-anniversary revue *Beach Blanket Babylon* producer **Jo Schuman Silver** made a very brief curtain speech at Club Fugazi last week reminding the audience, mostly press and CEOs, that we were about to see a full-dress rehearsal of *Beach Blanket's* **SF Opera** benefit night. We were fully prepared for the delights that would follow; still, nothing spoiled the surprise of again seeing SF Chief of Protocol **Charlotte Mailliard Shultz** swooping overhead on guy wires. It was somewhat more disconcerting to see her hubby **George Shultz** (Sec'y of State in the Reagan era, which was characterized by a secret White House operation illegally selling arms to Iran, then funding Contras fighting the Nicaraguan government. That was sure a festive time!) onstage in **Superman** drag.

Movie maven **Jan Wahl** quite properly doffed her hat during the performance, which was good since we were sitting right behind her. Jan boogied down in her seat to every big production number in the show, which, let's face it, was

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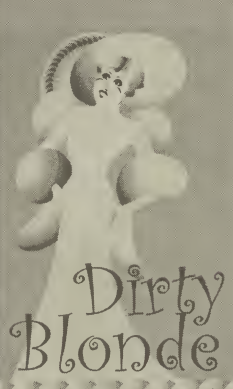
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THEATRE

Signing and singing

'Big River' runs at the Curran Theatre

by Richard Dodds

Jeff Calhoun was a star high-school quarterback until his knee bent backwards during a tackle. He returned the next year as a drum major.

"That was beginning of the end, much to my father's chagrin," Calhoun said. "But then we started having great half-time shows. I choreographed all of them."

It wasn't long before Calhoun was on Broadway, first as a performer, then as an assistant choreographer to his mentor, Tommy Tune. A decade ago he began getting sole director and/or choreographer credits on a succession of Broadway musicals, including the hit revivals of *Grease* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. But the way Calhoun feels now, they may as well have been half-time shows.

"This is the first time I feel like I've been able to use my own voice," he said of the San Francisco-bound revival of *Big River*. "It's the first time I've felt childlike in a positive way since I was putting on shows in my grandmother's garage."

Directing and choreographing another *Big River*, the 1985 Broadway musical based on *Huckleberry Finn*, doesn't seem the stuff of spiritual renewal. But this production is coming from a far different place than the original production, or any other musical that has been on Broadway.

Created for the Los Angeles-based Deaf West, the new *Big River* has a cast that is half hearing, half deaf. Slave Jim, for example, is played by hearing actor Michael McElroy, while Huck is played by deaf actor Tyrone Giordano. Daniel Jenkins, Huck Finn in the original 1985 production and now playing the narrating Mark Twain, provides the vocals to Giordano's signing.

Songs are handled in the same way, and, as with speech, sign language can be made evocative beyond the basics of communication. The results, according to most New York critics, are a fascinating hybrid that enhances the story.

"We're using two cultures to create this sort of new artform, so it seemed great to do a play that was about two cultures, and of course Twain's was about black and white. So I thought that the deafness would permeate and resonate through the whole story without having to point it up or comment on it."

That this production of *Big River*, launching its national tour at the Curran Theatre, made it to Broadway is itself remarkable. Calhoun first staged it at a 66-seat theater in North Hollywood, and its success there led to a run at the Mark Taper Forum in LA. The Roundabout Theatre in New York then picked it up for its Broadway home.

"It's a Cinderella story," Calhoun said. "It just goes to show that when you do something purely for the love of it, you are rewarded. You don't go to Deaf West to get rich or famous."

Before *Big River*, Calhoun was at least a little bit rich and little bit famous. But they were mainly



Director Jeff Calhoun: childlike.

the products of his association with Tommy Tune, the lanky performer-director-choreographer who took on the 16-year-old Calhoun as his protégé. They shared the best-choreography Tony in 1992 for *The Will Rogers Follies*.

Were Calhoun and Tune ever boyfriends? "A lot of people thought so," Calhoun said, "but it really was a mentor-protégé experience from the beginning."

Calhoun and his partner just began their eighth year together. The partner is not in show business. "Thank the Lord," Calhoun said. "He's a massage therapist. And I feel like the luckiest guy in the world."

Reminded that he was speaking to an interviewer from a gay publication, Calhoun came up with a gay angle or two. "It's not a gay show, but in the book Jim and Huck spend a lot of time together swimming without their clothes on. I had to exercise all my restraint with that. The gay angle in this is Michael McElroy, who has quite a gorgeous physique. You literally hear gasping from the audience; men wanting to be him, women wanting to be with him, and I guess some men wanting to be with him, too."

In addition to *Big River*, Calhoun is on a high because of his upcoming show that he will direct, choreograph, and produce. *Brooklyn*, set to open on Broadway in the fall, is the story of five street performers who have written an urban fairy tale that they put on every night under the Brooklyn Bridge.

"It was written by an actual street performer who was down on his luck and found himself living on the streets for a chapter of his life," Calhoun said. "It's an inspiring story."

Calhoun said he has put a lot of his own money into *Brooklyn*, despite the adage that a producer never puts his own money into a show.

"I believe in the show, and it was the only way it was going to happen," he said. "I've never been happier, and I would rather tank doing *Brooklyn* on my terms than doing anything else right now."

For more *Big River* info, go to bestofbroadway-sf.com or deaf-west.org.

Marquis marks

Doug Wright won the Pulitzer Prize this year for his play *I Am My Own Wife*, but before that, *Quills* was his main claim to fame. Though produced at scores of regional theaters — and twice announced, then canceled by the Magic Theatre — it is only now having its Bay Area debut.

Quills, playing at the Julia Morgan Center in Berkeley, is a Grand Guignol interpretation of the life of the Marquis de Sade. One critic called it "smirky, gross-out fun with a purpose."

That purpose, according to the playwright, was fueled by the current events of the early 1990s; more precisely, the debates about arts censorship and NEA funding.

"I was very concerned about the NEA," he told an interviewer several years ago. "I began reading de Sade's work, and though I think of myself as pretty jaded, it shocked me. But to find something so perverse, scary yet fundamentally true, is liberating."

Reid Davis is directing the Shotgun Players production, running through July 3. All performances are free, with donations accepted after the show. Call (510) 704-8210 or go to shotgun-players.org.

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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Forgotten talent

The life of director Edmund Goulding

by Tavo Amador

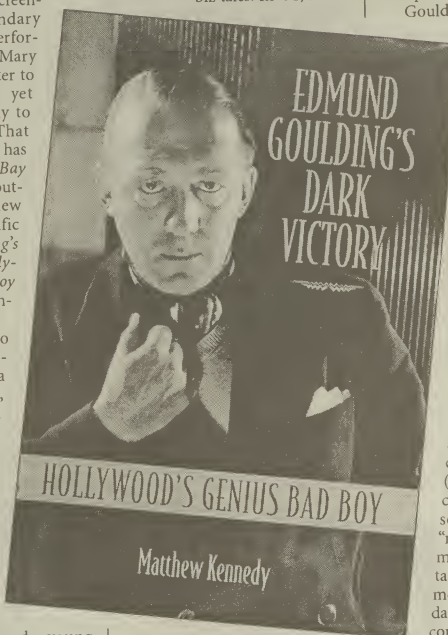
Edmund Goulding (1891-1959) directed over 30 movies, wrote screenplays, guided legendary stars to acclaimed performances, and helmed Mary Astor and Anne Baxter to Academy Awards, yet today is known only to classic-film buffs. That lamentable situation has been addressed by Bay Area Reporter contributing writer Matthew Kennedy in his terrific *Edmund Goulding's Dark Victory: Hollywood's Genius Bad Boy* (University of Wisconsin Press, \$35).

Born in London to a working-class family, Goulding was a successful actor, singer and writer in England and New York before arriving in Hollywood. His first directorial assignment was *Sun-Up* ('25), but he made a strong impression with his second film, *Sally, Irene and Mary* ('25), starring Constance Bennett and a young Joan Crawford, who earned her first good reviews as a flapper. He

wrote the screenplay for *Broadway Melody of 1929*, which won the Best Picture Oscar and became the prototype backstage story, influencing countless other showbiz tales. In '31, he di-

relationship soured, and he remained bitter. When Crawford suggested he direct her and Davis in *Ethan Fromme*, Goulding said he wouldn't "touch [Davis] with a 10-foot pole."

Goulding replaced Cukor on the film adaptation of gay novelist W. Somerset Maugham's popular *The Razor's Edge* ('46). Although the movie cannot articulate the wisdom its central character, played by the bisexual Tyrone Power, finds in India (the novel couldn't, either), it's still powerful entertainment and more fun than the Bill Murray remake. In addition to Baxter's Oscar-winning turn, there's gay Clifton Webb as the screen's greatest snob, with an unforgettable death scene. Goulding also directed Power in the chilling *Nightmare Alley* ('47), an unblinking tale of carnival life. Power descends from a successful "mind-reader" to a geek, the man in a cage who decapitates live chickens with his mouth. The film was too dark for the era and failed commercially, but today it's riveting.



irected *Grand Hotel*, the pioneering all-star melodrama, with Greta Garbo, John Barrymore, Crawford, Lionel Barrymore, and Wallace Beery — the first film where a common setting throws strangers together with dramatic consequences. It won the Best Picture Academy Award.

Like his contemporary, the openly gay director George Cukor, the bisexual Goulding focused on actors, creating a safe ambiance for them to perform. He didn't worry about fancy camera angles and distrusted editors, so he often shot key scenes in one long take. Like Cukor, he was labeled a "woman's director," and resented it. Unlike Cukor, however, Goulding avoided long-term studio contracts, which probably cost him several Oscar nominations. Also unlike the more discreet Cukor, Goulding's reputation for hosting orgies with both sexes earned him the puritanical scorn of MGM's hypocritical Louis B. Mayer. Goulding also lacked Cukor's self-discipline — heavy drinking and smoking affected his ability to work in later years.

Pole vaulting

Goulding's best achievements compare favorably with those of his more highly regarded contemporaries. *Dark Victory* ('39) was based on a flop Broadway play starring Tallulah Bankhead. Under Goulding, it became Bette Davis' favorite film, a huge critical and box-office success. The writer in Goulding realized the heroine, a fast-living, wealthy young woman who discovers she has an incurable brain tumor, cannot be seen feeling sorry for herself. Instead, her best friend (Geraldine Fitzgerald) suffers, standing in for the audience. Davis, at her finest, grows from self-centeredness to concern for those who love her, and faces death without any sanctimonious nobility. In *Victory*, *The Old Maid* ('39) and *The Great Lie* ('41), Goulding achieved something few directors managed: he made Davis sympathetic. Their

Gift wrap

Goulding's great discovery was Dorothy Maguire, a lovely, talented actress who didn't reach superstardom, but whose 20-year career he launched in *Claudia* ('47). As Kennedy points out, Goulding often directed inferior material, making it seem better than it was. Here he differed from Cukor, who relied on strong scripts, and whose best films benefited accordingly.

Goulding was almost too gifted, even writing music. He was a devoted if unfaithful husband, caring for his wife until her untimely death. He was a good son and brother. Sadly, he separated his emotional and sex lives. In this, he resembled Cukor and other gay men of the era, like Cole Porter. Goulding's strongest emotional bond was with his attorney, the remarkable Fannie Holtzmann, who handled his business affairs with acumen and courage.

MGM producer Irving Thalberg admired Goulding. His early death cost Goulding an important mentor, one who would have given him projects worthy of his talents. Yet, as Kennedy points out, most of Goulding's films are entertaining, feature good performances, and, while very much of their era, often have timeless moments. Not a bad legacy for a butcher's son.

Kennedy's style is lively and erudite. Readers shouldn't be put off by this being a university press book: it's well-illustrated, engaging, informative, funny, and fascinating, not remotely academic. Anyone interested in classic Hollywood or how creativity can simultaneously flourish and flounder should buy it at once. ▼

Matthew Kennedy reads and signs *Edmund Goulding's Dark Victory: Hollywood's Genius Bad Boy* on Monday, June 14, 5:30 p.m. at Lighthouse Books, 1803 Market St.

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Wham, bam, thank you, man

Ballett Frankfurt goes full-out in Berkeley

by Stephanie von Buchau

In 1987, three years into Helgi Tomasson's run as San Francisco Ballet's artistic director, American choreographer William Forsythe set a world premiere, "New Sleep," on the local company. No one who attended that first night will ever forget it. Timid folk, looking for Balanchine-like moonlight and roses from Tomasson, had their eardrums assaulted by Thom Willems' amplified sound score; the angular choreography scorched the stage. Forsythe, in his sexual-warfare mode, made Michael Smuin's "sexy" pieces seem like Harlequin romances.

In '89, Forsythe set "In the middle, somewhat elevated" for SFB, again to a Willems score. This was an homage to the Paris Ballet's *etoiles*, not quite as grinding as "New Sleep" but still a wonderful, energetic piece and audience favorite. Somewhere during those experiences, Forsythe, a married man with children, fell in love with SFB's dramatic ballerina, Tracy-Kai Maier. She followed him to Germany, where he had been developing his own company, Ballett Frankfurt, since 1984; they were married; and then, still in her early 30s, she died of cancer.



Dancers in William Forsythe's innovative Ballett Frankfurt company.

A tragic story, and Forsythe was not seen again in San Francisco until '98, when he made "The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude," a work that succeeds in kinetic exhilaration despite those sickly green lily-pad tutus worn by the girls. As for Ballett Frankfurt, despite appearances at BAM, it hadn't toured to the West Coast in 15 years. Then, two years ago, it was announced that the city of Frankfurt, cash-strapped and conservative like every other major government in the Western World, would severely reduce its stipend to Forsythe's company. The story circulated that the good German burghers were more interested in funding a tutu factory, and Forsythe resigned before he could be fired.

Common sense seems to have intervened; other local governments stepped forward, and now it looks as if 16-18 dancers from the 32-member Frankfurt company — among them, his third wife, spunky American dancer Dana Caspersen — will join Forsythe in a private venture based in Dresden and Frankfurt, funded by the states of the region. Since Ballett Frankfurt ceases to exist in August, as a final farewell and a smart marketing move, Forsythe has brought his innovative, internationally celebrated company to America once again, this time including Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area in the tour.

Too much fun

At this point, however, I must point out that Forsythe's deconstruction of ballet — the girls sometimes on pointe; and recognizable ballet poses, gestures and movements begun correctly before they dissolve into Forsythe's patented shoulder-shrugging, hip-twitching, foot-flexing, head-bobbing signature choreography — is sometimes too much of a good thing.

It's the dilemma any creative impresario faces: if you program

only your own work, you risk lack of variety. Only Mark Morris seems to avoid this trap, and that's because his musical imagination is so immensely varied. The Dutchman Willems is Forsythe's house composer, and four pieces scored by him, even though the scores are different, tend to create a sameness. In this case, much of the time the music was provided by the dancers themselves: grunts, yelps, heavy breathing, even the alarming sound of cracking cartilage. Any one of the first three dances on the program Ballett Frankfurt gave at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall last Thursday and Saturday could stand by itself as an inventive, witty, energetic piece. Three of them together, especially without a strong musical presence, was two too many.

The fourth piece, "One Flat Thing, reproduced," was an upbeat, thrilling, kinetic dance. Forsythe wants the viewer to experience his work in a visceral manner, yet the choreographer is such an intellectual that he can't help offering abstruse backgrounds. "One Flat Thing" is supposedly inspired by the failure of Scott's trek to Antarctica. Even if you didn't know that, the 20 metal tables that 14 dancers smash down on the stage and then proceed to dance over, around and under at a furious pace, with one of Willems' loudest scores screaming in the background, still blows the viewer away. It is one of the great closing numbers ever conceived by a choreographer, but it could not be transferred to any other company.

In fact, there is no dance company in the world that looks like Ballett Frankfurt. Men and women are ordinary just like us, all shapes, sizes and colors, many of them having bad hair days or just plain baldness. There is not a ballet god or goddess among them, yet I can't think of any other large group of dancers that could

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MUSIC

Passion flowers in the symphony hall

'Keeping Score: MTT on Music' debuts this Wednesday on PBS

by Philip Campbell

The San Francisco Symphony and Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas are beginning an ambitious five-year multimedia venture, *Keeping Score: MTT on Music*, Wednesday, June 16, 8 p.m. on KQED-TV. Two one-hour programs will be aired back-to-back, bringing Tchaikovsky's magnificent Symphony No. 4 to the general viewing public.

More than 30 years have passed since the final broadcast of Leonard Bernstein's wonderful *Young People's Concerts*. Lucky baby-boomers were the last generation to enjoy easy access to music education on television and in the classroom. Unfortunately, they have since become complacent about budget cuts and the staggering cost of maintaining quality arts institutions.

Just last month, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom announced a 25% reduction in city funding to the SF Symphony, Opera, Ballet and Museum of Modern Art. The graying classical-music audience has done little to express alarm or reverse the trend.

Private donors have not offset the accelerating decline in revenue from government and corporate sponsors, and the problem is more than municipal. Americans seem mostly unwilling or unable to adequately support the arts. Ignorance of their impor-

tance and considering them culturally elitist are becoming a vicious circle.

Thankfully, the SFS is aggressively doing something about it. With a major subsidy by the Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund and support from Nan Tucker McEvoy and the National Endowment for the Arts, *Keeping Score: MTT on Music* is a project that will take us to the end of the first decade of the new millennium.

Three television series will be launched through 2008. The first radio series is scheduled for Summer 2005, and national education and outreach programs for high school music and humanities start in Fall 2005.

I would have liked to have been a fly on the wall at the meetings with the NEA, but the motivating force behind the project is certainly the SFS. Their 10-year partnership with Tilson Thomas has grown to a prominence that will someday surpass Bernstein's national legacy.

Modern moods

The first part of the debut production, subtitled *The Making of a Performance*, is a fascinating documentary that begins with MTT on the bare stage of Davies Hall, then tooling around town, musing on the meaning of music in modern life. His conversational manner and gift for communication are well-known to Symphony regulars, but the twinkle in his eye



Photo courtesy of SF Symphony

Director Gary Halvorson and SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas

and obvious passion for the subject should be a pleasant introduction for the uninitiated.

Hearing the bells at Grace Cathedral or on a cable car, drummers in the Mission, and even the cacophony of workers in the street, MTT finds the essential connection between music and life. Exploring the universal human emotions in Tchaikovsky's beloved Fourth Symphony — he even touches on the composer's homosexuality — becomes a logical extension of his basic premise: Music is Life.

Traveling behind the scenes at

Davies and visiting the homes of orchestra members goes a long way in demystifying the creative

process, and easily removes any fears about artistic snobbery. The musicians reveal themselves to be articulate and friendly teammates, happy to share their experiences and personal feelings.

Intriguing practical details about the profession — timpanist David Herbert soaking the natural skins of his drums in the locker room, and oboist William Bennett hand-crafting his reeds — are contrasted with charming confessions of insecurities about public performance.

In a clip from a *Music for Families* matinee, piccolo player Catherine Payne charms the kids (and the adults) with her monologue about the physical and mental anguish caused by her solo in the Tchaikovsky Fourth. Likening it to an Olympic event, she demonstrates the 21 notes that must be executed perfectly in three seconds. Fellow orchestra members respond by holding up

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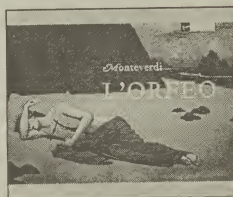
Monteverdi on disc, and the power of music

by Tim Pfaff

It's exquisite to contemplate that the first great opera, Claudio Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* (1607), is about the power of music. Still, great as the work is, the delight is halved by the less charming fact that few opera-goers ever get the chance to see it. It's eked out most of its existence in the studio, where it's been served more wisely than well.

The stunning new Virgin Veritas CDs led by Emmanuelle Haïm finds splendor in the work. From the first measures, some of the most uplifting gestures in music, this *Orfeo* announces that drama's in store, and then it delivers it with unrelenting bounty. It's a ride.

Most listeners will recognize those measures from Monteverdi's more familiar *Vespro della Beata Vergine* (1610), where he reused them to different but equally arresting effect. Hearing them reminded me of a remark Richard Taruskin once made after a UC Berkeley performance of the *Vespers*: that it lacked something quintessentially Italian, like the feel of grapes under the feet, and had the whiff of the English cathedral instead. That nails the previous recordings of *Orfeo*: musically proper but "British" in their tidy



respect for this towering masterpiece.

Haïm is either too young to know those recordings, or, thank what gods remain, no one has taught her reserve. Only the Bushies would find her recording, made in Paris and featuring her Le Concert d'Astrée and European Voices, too "French." It's as idiomatic as could be, taking the score, as it must, at slightly more than its word.

One of the principal decisions the leader of a Monteverdi opera must make is how much to flesh out the spare scores that survive, as they would have been by musicians of the day. Haïm goes for some of the heaviest instrumentation since the bad old days of Raymond Leppard, yet uses it all so pointedly and with such consummate taste that it just sweeps you along. There's no masterpiece worship here, just fasten-your-

page 48 ►

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Margaret Cho

◀ Arts cover

rights. It was a tremendous experience to be there with so many women, so many icons, and people who have been working for civil rights all their lives. It was an all-encompassing event: it was about gay rights, women's rights, equality, and civil rights for everybody. It was for Americans who believe in America, who want their America back.

You do a great bit about the "fucked-up shit" in your lunchbox at school when you were a kid. If you had a kid, what kinds of things would you put in their lunchbox?

I'm very against childbirth for myself, personally. I'd be the worst mom, that's why I'd never want to impose that on a child. I wouldn't wish my parenting on anyone.

Even though I don't like children, if I had to have one, it's gotta be gay. Or else I would kick 'em out. I would try to take him to

therapy to change him from straight to gay. I don't understand the mindset behind somebody who would really discriminate against their child because of their sexuality, that's weird to me.

The Atkins diet has become such a huge phenomenon, and the carb craze has got out of control. How do you feel about all that?

It's part of the American cultural ideal of wanting to be something other than who we are. It's kind of always been that way. So to me it's just another phase in the way that we develop as a nation. But it's become exacerbated by the phenomenon of reality television, and those makeover shows.

You confess to being a costume-drama queen, a fan of Merchant/Ivory movies. Are you looking at dramatic roles in movies?

The kind of films I would like to do are not the kind of films that I get to be a part of. I do love those movies, but there's never anything for me in them. It's as if history is

mainly focused on European or Edith Wharton novels. I love those novels, too, so I can't say I don't want to see them on the big screen. I would love to be able to participate in that portrayal, but it's not going to happen.

You also make reference to not wanting to be an extra in a James Bond movie. But if you were offered the role of a Bond girl, the object of desire, what would you want her name to be?

I've never actually ever considered it. Although I heard the other day, my friend Quentin Tarantino is looking to direct the next Bond film. So, I was going to ask him. I don't think I would necessarily want to be an object of desire, I would rather be one of those really horrible villainesses.

Like Lotte Lenya.

Yeah. Like with one eye. ▼

Revolution plays Frameline28 on June 18, and airs on Sundance Channel on June 19.

Out There

◀ page 30

every number in the show. This woman knows how to party! But what does she look like parading around in her underwear?

Meantime, we were *molto* pleased to learn from the latest issue of *Caltrans News* the results of the California Transportation Foundation's 15th annual **Tranny Award** ceremony, held last month in Sacramento. The recently completed **Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge**, which handsomely carries I-80 traffic over the Carquinez

Straight, was crowned with the title **Tranny Project of the Year**. Does *Heklina* know about this?

Belly laugh

Funny fella **Bruce Vilanch**, the zany, *zafitig* Edna who graces the touring production of *Hairspray* now playing the Golden Gate Theatre, will be Master of Ceremonies for *A Night of Comedy* to benefit the **UCSF AIDS Health Project**, Monday, June 14, 7 p.m. at Cobbs Comedy Club, 915 Columbus Ave. The night's lineup includes political comic **Will Durst**, **Sabrina Matthews** from Comedy Central, SF

Supe/comedian Tom Ammann, and funny others. For tickets (\$35-\$100), call (415) 928-4320, or go to www.cobbscomedy.com.

The UCSF AIDS Health Project, in its 20th year, provides counseling and education to stop the spread of HIV infection, and to help people face the emotional, psychological, and social challenges of living with HIV. Info at www.ucsf-ahp.org.

Photo credits to last week's cover story on **Pepperspray** should have gone to **Rev. Michael** (cover photo) and **Kent Taylor** (jump photo). Sorry 'bout that. ▼

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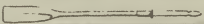


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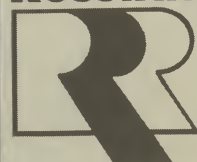
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Old spice

by Glen Helfand

The Male Mystique: Men's Magazine Ads of the 1960s and '70s by Jacques Boyreau (Chronicle Books, \$16.95)

Attention, Male Chauvinist Pigs, is an unlikely headline for a Hush Puppies ad from the not-so-distant past. Attention got, the fine print goes on: "Relax. When the 'Libs' call us that, it really means they think we're rugged, masculine, virile." Co-opting the counterculture, it seems, isn't a recent phenomenon.

That shoe spot is one of the first and most entertaining examples of 1960s and '70s Madison Avenue attempts to snag a men's market in *The Male Mystique*, Jacques Boyreau's collection of magazine advertisements. Borrowing his title from a classic work of '70s feminism, the book elicits laughs and shudders as it reveals the enduring nature of market-driven gender myths, the fleeting ideas of the tobacco and liquor industries, as well as how breathlessly fashion designers are willing to appropriate styles once attached to highly unfashionable cultural attitudes. Hipsters will lust after the retro fashions depicted here.

The book is populated by "ur-men" who stood and still stand for the heights of masculinity in all its guises — from rugged adventurer to cultured aesthete who knows the legs on his wine, as well as those on a brunet. Since this isn't

the work of a cultural critic, Boyreau, an SF-dwelling connoisseur of vintage pop culture, doesn't cite sources, but it's safe to assume the ads were clipped from *Esquire*, *Playboy* and long-lost hipster rags that were the *Details* of their day. They were the trend-setting publications when boomers weighed their options between hippie crunch and mod-swinging lifestyles, sometimes mood-swinging from one to the other. See the outerwear ad that proclaims, in pictures and words, "Used to be a hippie. Then he got hip."

In his pint-size introduction, Boyreau posits this collection as a vacation "à la Westworld," that Michael Chrichton-penned movie in which macho fantasy short-circuits. Yul Brynner, as the ruthless cowboy robot, is an icon in a 10-gallon hat. He doesn't seem so different from the suavely ominous Hathaway-shirt dude with his ubiquitous eye-patch, a dashing 007 nemesis. Boyreau relishes in the kind of mystique of the Marlboro men (MIA here), the marketing before the postmodernists got to them.

Tip or Tiparillo

Back then, a man slapped on musky English Leather, Bacchus after-shave, or Prell-green Men-men Skin Bracer with the aim of snagging a comely Swedish blond. He could slip on a pair of skin-tight polyester "European-fit" jeans (\$16 a pair), sip on a flute of bubbly Champale malt liquor, puff on a Tiparillo and have it



made! Ah, the simple life.

It's easy to feel like we've evolved, but have we, really? At a time where tobacco products have come under serious attack, it's fascinating to look back at its smoky male aura here. Before the phallic-faced Joe Camel, that brand employed a swarthy, mustachioed Turk with appeal for both sexes. Newport had a friendly, wind-blown sea captain. Then there's Adam, "the brown cigarette" most likely a Virginia Slims disguised as a cigar, with a '70s porn stud/Village People reject as its mascot. And for innuendo, nothing beats a "Big Tip Pall Mall Gold." With it, you "make out better at both ends!"

While most of the ads are overtly hetero in tone, there's a six-page section dubbed "The Way of Gay," where queer masculinity is all peacock preening of "male plumage." Guys sport psychedelic floral blazers and trousers — in patterns similar to paintings by Japanese popster Takashi Murakami. There's a "grooming lens" (read: make-up mirror) that offers "fabulous, flawless" powers of

magnification. Seeing the *mas macho* direction gay fashion has gone in the ensuing decades, most of this book could serve as a homo history lesson in style. Most of the images position dudes as the center of our viewing pleasure, the font of our consumer desires.

There's plenty of racial iconography in effect as well. Blaxploitation studs wear bold gold medallions and consort with foxy brown babes. They can wear "Dashing Dashikis," which only proclaim an Afrocentrism with the appearance of dark-skinned models, who on the facing page have segued into disco platform shoes and giant polyester lapels. Or how about the shirtless black Adonis wearing "Anti-Establishment, Post-Grad" plaid pants. Headline: "Slack Power."

Mexicans fare worse with "Statutory Serape?" a shocking headline celebrating a multicolored striped shirt made by Eagle Shirtmakers of Quakertown, Pennsylvania. Latin guys are relegated to hawking tequila in a sombrero ("One taste ... and you're not a Gringo any more.") The Far

East is referenced with the scent of Black Belt cologne, embodied by white guys, midbattle in martial arts uniforms. There's not an Asian male in these pages, but there is an aerosol marital aid called Long Joy, made from "Chinese animal and plant substances."

The early 21st century is marked by a kind of pinnacle of marketing and branding savvy, and the ads here exude a quaintness related to broad character mythologies that we can no longer take seriously — or at least not admit outside a fetish or fashion context. The popularity of camouflage clothing, or Tommy Hilfinger and Burberry marketing the look of white privilege across racial and class lines, are more powerful than any intellectual critique. The fact that this is a compilation of magazine advertisements, not articles or other editorialized vintage content, reveals something of our contemporary mindset. *Male mystique*, as this book entertainingly demonstrates, evolves only as much as the corporate gods dictate. ▼

Publishing Triangle Awards announced Les/gay writers honored

The Publishing Triangle's 16th Annual Triangle Awards, honoring the best lesbian and gay fiction, nonfiction, and poetry published in 2003, were presented last month at the Tishman Auditorium of the New School for Social Research in New York City. Lillian Faderman is the 2004 recipient of the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement, named in honor of a legendary editor of the 1970s and '80s. Faderman is the author of several significant works of history, including *Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendship and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present*, *Chloe Plus Olivia*, and most recently, a memoir, *Naked in the Promised Land*. The Bill Whitehead Award is given to a woman in even-numbered years and a man in odd years, and the winner receives \$3,000.

The Publishing Triangle presented a special Leadership Award to Barbara Gittings, who headed the Gay Task Force of the American Library Association (ALA) from 1971 to '86 and edited its Gay Bibliography and other gay reading lists. Gittings founded the NY chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis and edited its magazine, *The Ladder*. She was instrumental in having homosexuality removed from the American Psychiatric Association's list of mental disorders.

The Judy Grahn Award honors the American writer, cultural theorist and activist (b. 1940) best known for *The Common Woman* (1969) and *Another Mother Tongue* (rev. ed., 1984). It recognizes the best nonfiction book of the year affecting lesbian lives. Winner: Lillian Faderman, *Naked in the Promised Land* (Houghton Mifflin). Other finalists: Casey Charles, *The Sharon Kowalski Case* (Univ. Press of Kansas); Andrew Wilson, *Beautiful Shadow: A Life of Patricia Highsmith* (Bloomsbury).

The Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction honors the journalist whose groundbreaking work on the AIDS epidemic for *The San Francisco Chronicle* made him a hero to many in the community. Shilts (1951-94) was the author of *The Mayor of Castro Street*, *And the Band Played On*, and *Conduct Unbecoming*. Winner: John D'Emilio, *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin* (Free Press). Other finalists: Augusten Burroughs, *Dry* (St. Martin's); Dale Peck, *What We Lost* (Houghton Mifflin).

The Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry honors the American poet, essayist, librarian, and teacher. Lorde (1934-92) was nominated for the National Book Award for *From a Land Where Other People Live* and was the poet laureate of New York State in 1991. She received the Publishing Triangle's Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement shortly before her death. Among her other 16 books are *Zami* (1982) and *A Burst of Light* (1989). Winner: Daphne Gottlieb, *Final Girl* (Soft Skull Press). Other finalists: Marilyn Hacker, *Desesperanto* (Norton); Minnie Bruce Pratt, *The Dirt She Ate* (Univ. of Pittsburgh).

The Publishing Triangle Award for Gay Poetry: Winner: Brian Teare, *The Room Where I Was Born* (Univ. of Wisconsin). Other finalists: Patrick Donnelly, *The Charge* (Ausable Press); Peter Pereira, *Saying the World* (Copper Canyon).

The Ferro-Grumley Awards for lesbian and gay fiction: Winner for Lesbian Fiction: Nina Revoyr, *Southland* (Akashic). Winner for Gay Fiction: Trebor Healey, *Through It Came Bright Colors* (Harrington Park). The Robert Chesley Foundation award for Lifetime Achievement in Playwriting co-winners are Rebecca Ranson (Lifetime Achievement Award) and Jane Shepard (Emerging Artist). ▼

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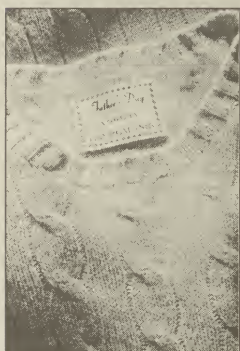
BOOKS

Dad's day is done

Author Philip Galanes on fathers, phone sex

by Gregg Shapiro

The debut novel by Philip Galanes, *Father's Day* (Alfred A. Knopf, \$22.95), introduces the reader to a promising new voice in gay fiction. Matthew, the narrator, is a gay man in his 30s who spends his time mourning his father's suicide, cruising phone-sex lines, investigating the mysteries of his mother's sex life, visiting a bathhouse, arranging a memorial service, taunting his therapist, digging around in his past, and sabotaging his new relationship with a man named Henry. In Galanes' capable hands, Matthew is likable in spite of himself, and the reader wants to see what becomes of him.



Gregg Shapiro: I don't know if two books count as a trend, but Matthew Sharp's *The Sleeping Father* also deals with a father's struggle with depression.

Philip Galanes: Growing up as I did, most of the writing and films that I focused on were all about a kind of cheap, scene-chewing, big momma character. It was all about, "What did you mother do to you?" I think like a lot of men in my generation, my father was a little shadowy. My dad used to tromp off to work in the morning and then come home at night, and the real life of my family often felt like when he was away. So, really excavating and thinking about my own relationship with my father was a big pleasure in this book. My father died when I was quite young, when I was in my early 20s, so part of the pleasure of writing, for me, was imagining what a relationship with your father would be like when you were 30 or 35.

Matthew has this whole thing built up about the secret life of his mother: the possibility that she had these illicit, same-sex affairs with her friends Sheila and Birdie.

As an adult, to experience your parent as another adult and to project onto them the experiences that we have in our own lives, it's very interesting to cross a threshold where your mother and father start being just another adult in the room. They're wanting to get laid, and to get a raise at the office, and all the same stuff that we want.

Matthew relies so much on his memories, but he himself says that he's an unreliable witness, and they don't stay chronological.

I don't know if you've had this experience, of sitting down with your brothers and remembering a family vacation, and their experience of it will be so different from



Philip Galanes: 'Like a lot of men, my father was a little shadowy.'

yours. You're both trying your hardest, nobody's got an ax to grind, and everybody's trying to be as honest as they can. Memory is so much the core of our emotional lives, and inevitably we remember things wrong.

The relationship in the book between Matthew and his therapist Goldstein is interesting. It's very contentious because, as Goldstein says to Matthew, he's rejecting perfectly nice men.

Humor, especially around Goldstein, was very important, because it was a way of demonstrating how Matthew could get only so close to things, and then he would deflect any kind of entrance into a pain zone by making a joke. I think that's a very human thing, to try and avoid discomfort. I tried to show that in those scenes with Goldstein, because when you're sitting in the office with a shrink, and the shrink's got your number, and you don't like the number, you've gotta do something very quickly!

Another well-handled subject is the bathhouse culture and the phone-sex culture that Matthew participates in. He's visiting the Pump Line, visiting the Downtown Club. It's interesting that he would be on a phone line, as opposed to being in chat-rooms online.

I chose the telephone even though it's maybe a slightly ancient thing now. The telephone promises so much more intimacy. Late at night, in a dark room, picking up the phone and speaking softly into the receiver promises a kind of intimacy that, inevitably, it's never going to fulfill, but much more so than clattering away on the keyboard in the middle of the night. Both the telephone line and the bathhouse happen in a kind of darkness; they seem to promise intimacy they're never able to deliver. It's the hunt for intimacy without any willingness to take on the responsibility.

Henry, whom Matthew meets on the Pump Line, feels so genuine and ready to love, so open and willing. Yet Matthew is ready to sacrifice him for his own desires.

I feel like I've known many Henrys in my day. Of course, they all came with problems and deficiencies, just like we all do. Until you're ready to buckle your seatbelt, turn on the ignition and take a ride, we can send these lovely

guys packing for a long time! I think of Henry as the promise that's out there for all of us, we just have to be willing to work and commit. Henry's going to be just as flawed, horrible and wonderful as we are. We're all out there hunting for the very same things. Every once in a while, we can find it.

Matthew's mother has these words of wisdom for him: "Practically nothing comes down to sex, and a lot more comes down to eating dinner together and sleeping in the same bed." Are those a mother's words, or your words?

Well, yeah, you caught me. I think those could be anybody's words, but they certainly get to the heart of my experience over the last 15 years of trying to be in love, and being out of love, and being in relationships and out of them. I think those are true words. ▼

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BOOKS

Sexual adventuring in the Middle East

A posthumous appreciation of author Robert Tewdwr Moss

by Tim Miller

Cleopatra's Wedding Present by Robert Tewdwr Moss; University of Wisconsin Press

Cleopatra's *Wedding Present* is that unusual book that captures the reader from the first page as it invites us into a world where most of us have never ventured. This memoir by Robert Tewdwr Moss of his journeys through Syria in the early '90s is both an amazing examination of the social complexities of Islam and a red-hot revelation of the erotics of one man's travels.

Tewdwr Moss, a brilliant young writer who was murdered in London the day after he finished this book, left this sexy, lyrical gem as his legacy. As I read the book, I was struck by the depth of insight and empathy the author has for the complexity of culture and politics in the Middle East. At a time when our politics in the US are mired in the most cartoonish and inept perceptions of Islam and the Middle East, this queer man's vision was a huge relief. The land of present-day Syria was part of Mark Anthony's love gift to Cleopatra. Then and now, as we witness in this remarkable memoir, it is a land of desire and danger that does not reveal its secrets lightly.

I talked with Raphael Kadushin, Humanities Editor at University of Wisconsin Press, publisher of *Cleopatra's Wedding Present*, about his commitment to this remarkable book.

Tim Miller: I have followed the cult that has built up around *Cleopatra's Wedding Present: Travels through Syria* ever since finding a second-hand copy in London. How did you encounter this amazing book?

Raphael Kadushin: I was in a gay bookstore in Amsterdam and picked up a remaindered copy of the British edition, which never got much attention and never came out in the US. At first, I thought it was soft-core porn, because the British edition had a cover shot of Moss looking studly and beefcakey in a tank-top, but when I read the first page, I thought, my God, this is a real book! It's so rare that you open a book these days and confront a genuine voice, so I rushed back to our flat and read the book in one sitting. It's that old cliché, I couldn't put it down, but this was the only time in my life that I really could not put a book down.

The book is haunted by the murder of the author in London shortly after completing the manuscript. *Cleopatra's Wedding Present* is so full of sex and lurking violence, so the loss of Tewdwr Moss seems particularly ironic, and a heavy loss to literature. What happened?

There are different versions of what happened, depending on who you talk to. Moss was mentoring a younger man in London, and there was probably something romantic going on between them. The boy broke into Moss' apartment in Paddington, London, on August 24, 1996, the day after Moss had completed his final draft of *Cleopatra*. The boy and a friend bound and gagged Moss, and burglarized the apartment. Moss was found the following morning by his lodger; his feet

were tied together and his hands were bound with a cord, and two socks had been stuffed into his mouth. A postmortem showed he died of asphyxiation while he was gagged. The boys probably didn't intend to kill him, but who knows? They were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in the British courts.

To add insult to the fatal injury, the boys stole Moss' laptop computer with the final disk of *Cleopatra* on it, and that disk was never recovered, so his British agent and editor had to sit down and compare their earlier drafts, and put the final book together like a big jigsaw puzzle. So the book is really a tribute to Moss and the skill of the editors, because it reads seamlessly. The fact that he survived all those risks in Syria and then got murdered promptly upon returning to genteel England is an irony in itself, and one he would have appreciated in a very perverse way.

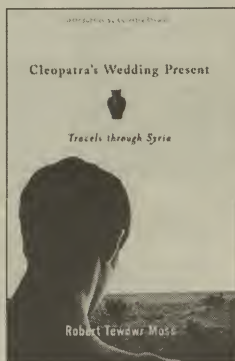
It seems as if you have had a very personal investment in the book. Your series at University of Wisconsin Press, *Living Out, Gay and Lesbian Autobiographies*, has won a Lambda Literary Award for its major achievement in detailing queer lives. Does the untimely loss of the author's life call forward a special degree of responsibility from you as an editor to make sure the book reaches us here in the States?

Yes. Part of the *Living Out* series is about reclaiming lost voices and making sure that gay stories still get told. That's especially crucial now because so few big commercial publishing houses still publish serious gay books, and there are a lot of very strong gay writers who can no longer get published, period. What gets published and reviewed these days are the gay non-books: the homo versions of Harlequin romances, or the comedies that are written by aspiring screenplay writers, or the really bad coming out stories by illiterate 17-year-old Brett Easton Ellis impersonators, or the soft-core stuff, or the picture books. To see this crap get churned out and taken seriously, and then to find a book like *Cleopatra*, sitting on a shelf, dying a premature death, with no US publisher and no audience, is very frustrating.

Also, the fact that Moss is dead means that it's crucial for the rest of us who see the beauty of this work to get it out there and demand the attention and visibility it deserves. Sometimes I feel like I'm channeling Moss. He was only 34 when he was murdered, and this is his only book, the first of what clearly would have been a lifetime of good books, so it's essential that the word gets out.

In these terrible times of "shock and awe" propaganda, how does this book manage such an astute and nuanced take on Syria and Islam?

Moss wasn't a distant or detached traveler. He got to know every ethnic faction in Syria through his personal relations with the Syrians, and he reveals the country's muddle through his friendships and romances. When Moss befriends Jewish merchants, German barons, Syrian cabbies, Palestinian refugees, Arab rent-boys, campy florists, local characters like Baby Shoes, and the man who leads him into the desert to



the site of a major ethnic massacre, and they dig up the old bones together, he isn't a detached witness. He's telling a purely personal adventure story, and a romance that intersects with history and reveals all the tragedies of the Middle East in a visceral way.

At one dinner party he attends, the guests include "one Jesuit, one Syrian Catholic, one Syrian Orthodox, one Moslem, one Armenian Moslem, one French Catholic, one Algerian-French Moslem, and one Welsh pantheist." He never sticks to the tourist tracks. He spends time in Damascus, but he also goes to backroads cities like Aleppo, which he describes as "this strange, dirty, collapsing town, a town with a past and no present." He spends the night in ruined palaces, on mountaintops, in huts and tents and monasteries.

It's amazing how well his book charts the complex spaces of sex and politics. This is especially apparent in his relationship with Jihad, the Palestinian former commando. How does Tewdwr Moss manage the time bomb of human desire and the social chaos it inhabits?

Like the best books, *Cleopatra* keeps changing shape and becoming something you don't expect. It starts out almost as a light, sarcastic travel memoir, of the Englishman abroad. But then it turns deadly serious, as Moss discovers the history of ethnic atrocities; and then it turns into the most bittersweet, poignant romance, as his casual sexual adventures give

way to a real romance, and a love for the Palestinian man Jihad, whom he first meets in a sleazy cafe in Damascus. He first describes Jihad as a tough-looking character in his late 20s who has a long, bony face, pale brown, wavy hair, a missing tooth, and the air of the outsider about him. When they first sleep together on Jihad's metal bed, Moss is terrified that some loose live-wires will fry them both to death in their electric bed. He only slowly sees the man's softer side.

All these elements intertwine so when Moss, after a short return to London, comes back to Syria to find Jihad, whom he suddenly realizes he loves, the final search becomes an echo of all the missed connections, misunderstandings, and misplacement that make up the essence, these days, of the

Middle East.

This book could have a wide appeal: gays, travel readers, political junkies. Who's the ideal reader?

Anyone who knows what good writing still is. It's also a lot more erotic, funny and entertaining than any of the cookie-cutter circuit-boy novels and memoirs that are clogging the bookshelves now. Moss is a much truer adventurer: someone who took real, unexpected risks, and whose sexual marathon was much more erotic, moving and finally romantic than the usual tale of dropping Ecstasy and dating a go-go boy. This is the kind of page-turner that works on every level: as a travel memoir, an adventure story, a sexual picaresque, a romance, and a very personal exploration of the Middle East. ▼

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WATCH THIS AD FOR REOPENING

Pride month lights up Sundance

Indie gay film lineup runs through June on the cable channel

by David Lamble

It's a well-kept secret that the Sundance Channel is at times the queerest spot in the cable universe, with an almost nightly selection of offbeat offerings from the world of lesbian and gay festivals. If you don't care to spring for the price of a DVD, here's the best and cheapest way to stay current.

Lan Yu Very economical telling of an intense affair between a struggling student and a high-powered business executive, set at the time of the Tiananmen Square massacre 15 years ago. Director Stanley Kwan deftly substitutes a different political subtext, the arrival of a new Mandarin class represented by the character of Chen Handong. At first, Handong is happy merely to snatch Lan Yu out of the clutches of a rival. Paying for sex, and showering him with gifts (clothes for sexier undressing) seem to inoculate the older man from the virus of love.

One night, Lan Yu shows up at the flat unannounced and catches Handong playing with a hunkier boy. A fight ensues, they part, only to meet again on June 4, 1989, the night of Tiananmen. Later, as Lan Yu lies sobbing in Handong's arms, his tears, shed for the death of his fellow students and the fledgling democracy movement, also seal his love for Handong, a love tested by their culture's de-



Band of genderbending brothers in Weber & Weissman's *The Cockettes*.

mand that even gays marry. A queer love story becomes a vehicle for depicting unsettling times. (6/13, 22)

Big Eden This flawed but intensely crowd-pleasing love story depicts the decision of one Henry Hart, a successful New York artist, to return to his Montana childhood home. Henry still holds a torch for Dean, a high school buddy who, as Henry discovers, is now a divorced man with two kids. Henry's return kickstarts a very odd romance. Corny but heartfelt look at gay life in small-town America. (6/12, 15, 30)

The Cockettes Calling themselves The Cockettes (rhymes with Rockettes), this band of genderbenders made a brief but snazzy stand in the North Beach district of San Francisco, the Castro of its time (the late '60s/early '70s). Now remembered chiefly for having spawned disco drag diva Sylvester, in their time the Cockettes led the West Coast version of Andy Warhol Nation. Three decades later, filmmakers David Weissman and Bill Weber reassembled the surviving members of the troupe, and painstakingly sifted through thousands of photos, film clips and live stage



Lawless Heart examines a death on an incestuously small island.

recordings to provide a unique glimpse of an era that still provides inspiration for today's pop-driven dreams. (6/15)

Lawless Heart British filmmakers Neil Hunter and Tom Hunsinger followed their romantic hit *Boyfriends* with a bittersweet tale dealing with the ramifications of death on an incestuously small island community. The drowning of Nick's lover Stuart not only leaves Nick lonely and broke, but for a time questioning his sexual identity, if not his sanity. Stuart's demise rocks several lives in a film that deftly switches points of view. (6/17)

By Hook or By Crook Shy blows into San Francisco looking to buy a gun and pursue a life of petty crime, but when he finds a gunshop to his liking he's considerably short of the necessary \$500. Enter Valentine (Silas Howard of the dyke punk band Tribe 8), who's somewhat aimlessly searching for his birthmother (by calling strangers up from convenience-store pay phones) while living with a woman named Billie, in a bungalow straight out of the Janis Joplin era. Shy and Valentine have that separated-at-birth soulmate thing, sharing a taste for Tab and tequila, playing soda machines like they were slot machines, scamming pea-brain hardware clerks into refunds for shoplifted power saws, and generally behav-

ing the way people do when their next address is the Hall of Justice. This genderbending comedy/melodrama plays at times like *The Grifters* crossed with a screwball version of *Flirting with Disaster*. (6/20, 23)

Gasoline Two Italian babes are caught in the act of love by the lesbian-hating mother of one. Mom comes to an untimely end, and the girls spend the balance of this stylish noir looking for a suitable place to leave this ever-so-tasteful corpse. American-educated Italian filmmaker Monica Stambrini has made a very entertaining road movie that will take you through a nighttime Italian landscape that would be right at home in the adrenaline-fueled films of John Dahl. (6/27)

Trembling Before G-d Like the lost tribe of Israel, filmmaker Sandi DuBowski was a bit out to sea when he first set out to tell the stories of sexually active, spiritually devout lesbians and gay men who fall along the Hasidic and Orthodox end of the religious Richter scale. Set in Orthodox communities around the globe from Jerusalem to San Francisco, *G-d* profiles people as diverse as the world's first openly gay Orthodox rabbi, Steve Greenberg; deeply closeted, married Hasidic queers; and very out individuals kicked out of Orthodox families. (6/12, 18, 29) ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Fri 11

Techno-Topia

Malfuction @ The LAB

The LAB presents two new solo performances in Techno-Topia Malfuction, a poly-media event comprised of musical theatre, performance, video assemblage, video

projections, conceptual movement, and commercial advertisements. Artists Praba Pilar and René García (Los Cybrids: La Raza Techno-Critica), have worked to incite critical dialogue around the relationships between technology, capitalism, authority and civil society. 8pm Fri. & Sat. June 11 & 12, 18 & 19. The LAB, 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Info: www.prabapilar.com/technotopia

Calendare by Mark Mardon

NQAF 2004

The National Queer Arts Festival is now in full swing, having kicked off last week with *QBall* and an art show by Mazz at The Center. Here's a rundown of this week's events.

Friday, June 11

M.U.V.E. @ SomArts — (a)eromestiza, QueLACo, API Cultural Center and the Queer Cultural Center present *M.U.V.E.* — Movement Uninhibited Violating Everything. An experiment in performance, music, fashion and video. Delight in *M.U.V.E.*'s interrogation of bodies, identities, ethnicities, sexualities, communities and interracialities. Featuring Project Coordinators Heather Cox Carducci and Gigi Otalvaro-Hormillosa with Ixta Lagos, Jennifer Wofford, Eliza Barrios, melissa dougherty, Jenny Hacker, emael, and Marilyn Yu. \$12-\$25 sliding. 8pm. SomArts Theater, 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Info: www.quelaco.org; www.apiculturalcenter.org; www.muve.org

Circo Zero @ Dance Mission Theater — Circo Zero presents two new works of experimental circus and performance: *Chosen*, a solo performance by Keith Hennessy, and *Mercy*, a chamber circus co-created by acrobat/cortionist Jade-blue Eclipse, aerialist Susan Voyticky, shamanic fool Seth Eisen, electronic composer Marc Kate, and choreographer Keith Hennessy, plus two other circus artists TBA. Nudity and mature themes. \$10 minimum. 8pm Fri.-Sun., June 10-13 & 17-20. DMT, 3316 - 24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 415-273-4633; www.circerozero.org

Saturday, June 12

The Newlyweds @ The Center — Opening Reception: "The Newlyweds," presented by The Queer Cultural Center (Qcc) and Bay Area Community of Women (BACW) as part of *Spouses for Life* — A Wedding Album, the photography exhibition. For the first time ever in this country's history, beginning February 12, 2004, nearly 4,000 same-gender couples were legally married. *The Newlyweds* features the couples' own stories, documented through photographs and narratives. Free. 4:30-6:30pm. The Center, 1800 Market St.

The Photographer's Eye @ SomArts — an exhibit documenting SF's historic gay marriages, with submissions of the weddings and/or post-wedding festivities from pro's and amateurs alike. Part of *Spouses for Life* — A Wedding Album. Free. SomArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. @ 8th St.

Sunday, June 13

The Drag King Revolution @ SomArts — Swordfish Productions & The Queer Cultural Center will host *Art, Sex, Gender & Race* — *The Drag King Revolution*, a public forum, performance, and film trailer (*Strap 'Em Down! The World of Drag Kings*, by Ann P. Meredith). \$15. 6:30pm. SomArts Theater, 934 Brannan St. (at 8th).

Tuesday, June 15

Queer Women of Color Film Night @ The Center — The Third Annual Queer Women of Color Film Night, curated by filmmaker Madeleine Lim and Darshan E. Campos. Free. 7:30pm.

Thursday, June 17

Fresh Meat 2004 @ ODC Theater — Gala Opening Night Reception: Fresh Meat Productions & The Queer Cultural Center present *Fresh Meat 2004*, The Transgender & Queer Cabaret Extravaganza. Homo hip hop, tranny glam rock, all-girl breakdance, gender-defying modern dance, juicy burlesque, and the world's first transgendered gospel choir collide, cabaret-style. Featuring Artistic Director Sean Dorsey; Marcus Rene Van (hip-hop); Transcendence Gospel Choir (*Whosoever Believes*), the world's first transgendered gospel choir; Shawna Virago and The Deadly Nightshade Family (tranny/queer rockers); Katastrophe (AKA Rocco Kayiatos, a female-to-male emo-hop MC); Navarrete x Kajayama (dance that dives into the queer body); Maiana Minahal (poetry, with Nedjula Baguio on classical guitar); Sisterz of the Underground (female hip-hop expressionists/breakdancers); Harlem Shake (women-of-color burlesque); Julia Serano (spoken word artist); JenRO (female rapper); and Sonya Smith & Christopher Love (gravity-defying aerial work). \$15 (reservations strongly recommended). June 17, 18, 19 at 8pm. ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix: 415-863-9834; www.ticketweb.com. Info: www.odctheater.org

For details about the NQAF, call 415-334-0722 or visit www.queerculturalcenter.org

SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band @ Bethany United Methodist Church

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, conducted by Artistic Director Jadine Louie, presents "Bringing It All Back Home," a musical homecoming of memories, comfort, yearning, and pride. Featuring the "Children's March" (Australian Percy Aldridge Grainger's masterwork to a childhood friend), "Fantasia in G" (Timothy Mahr's contemporary version of "Ode to Joy," the classical musician's comfort food), "Shenandoah" (Frank Ticheli's 1999 rich setting of the classic American homesickness anthem), "Selections from Porgy & Bess" (George and Ira Gershwin's story of yearning as arranged for concert band by Russell Bennett), and "Folk Song Suite for Military Band" (the much-loved R. Vaughan Williams composition). Free! 8:15pm. 1268 Sanchez St. (at Clipper St. in Noe Valley). Info: 415-255-1355; www.sflgb.org

Alvin Orloff & Jon Longhi @ Modern Times Bookstore

Alvin Orloff reads from *GutterBoys* (Manic D. Press), and Jon Longhi reads from *Wake Up and Smell the Beer* (Manic D. Press). In *GutterBoys*, Shy, 19-year-old Jeremy falls madly in love with Colin, a disturbed yet brilliant older hustler who intro's him to the hilariously depraved world of New Wave nightclubs. In *Wake Up...*, SF's poet/musician/saxophone counterculture unleashes a panorama of melancholy and psychodrama on an unsuspecting world. Free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. Info: 415-282-9246; www.moderntimesbookstore.com

Clue: The Play @ The Dark Room

Six suspicious guests. Nine sinister rooms. Six deadly weapons. One killer evening. What's a body to do? It's the premiere of *Clue: The Play*, a farce whodunit cocktail-party-turned-multiple-homicide that will leave you guessing. An Impossible Production, directed by Cameron Eng & Jim Four-niads and produced by Erin Ohameson & Cameron Eng. \$16 door; \$12 on adv. *acteva.com*. 8pm Fri & Sat. 11, 12, 18 & 19. The Dark Room, 2263 Mission St. Info: 415-401-7987; cluetheplay.4t.com

Southern Baptist Sissies @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents Del Shores' comedy/drama *Southern Baptist Sissies*, directed by Clay David. The play is an exploration into the lives of four Texas gay men raised in the Baptist Church. \$18-\$28. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; Sun. at 2pm. June 10 performance captioned for the hearing impaired. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market St.). Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctc.org

The End @ NCTC

NCTC presents a workshop production of *The End*, with lyrics by Tony Award-winning George Furth (Company; Merrily We Roll Along) and music by Broadway composer/arranger Doug Katsaros (The Rocky Horror Show; Footloose). Mike Ward is stage director and Michael O'Dell is music director. Spend an evening with three sassy, brassy, classy women (singer/actors Jen McDearman, China Crawford, and Deirdre Green) in a musical revue exploring the horrifying end of relationships. \$20. Thru June 26, Fri. & Sat. 8pm; Sun. 3pm.

Dirty Blonde @ NCTC

NCTC presents the romantic comedy *Dirty Blonde* by Claudia Shear, directed by Doyle Ott. Conceived by Shear and James Lapine. It's a touching comedy about Jo and Charlie, two New York loners-turned-lovers who learn to accept themselves through their

mutual obsession with the voluptuous film and stage icon Mae West. \$18-\$28. Thru June 26, Wed-Sat. at 8pm.

L.E.A.R.

@ New Langton Arts

Love, Egos, Alternative Rock (L.E.A.R.), directed by Jesse Baldwin, written by Stuart Bousel, based on the short story "The Cunning Stunts" by Melissa Klepetar. Simone decides to start a garage band with her friends and by some freak accident they become overnight alt-rock sensations. \$10. 8pm nightly June 4, 5, 10, 11, 12. New Langton Center for the Arts, 1246 Folsom St. Tix/info: 415-752-2084; email: Endymion82@aol.com (subject line "LEAR").

Sat 12

Community Day, San Jose Gay Pride

Pansy Division and The Mark Wiegles Band headline the free Community Day at San Jose Gay Pride, this year celebrating the theme "Many Faces, One Community." The Annual Free Community Day in the Park, at Discovery Meadow in downtown San Jose, runs from noon to 6pm, with the best in local entertainment and plenty of activities for the entire gay family. Access by CalTrain: Get off at the Dirdon/Downtown San Jose Station and walk to the park (about five blocks) or get off at Tamien Station, take the Light Rail towards Great America and get off at the Technology Station. Call 1-800-660-4287 for CalTrain schedules & info. Access by BART: Take BART to the Fremont Station, then take the V.T.A. Express 180 bus to downtown San Jose and the West San Carlos stop. Info: www.sj-gaypride.com

SF Ethnic Dance Festival @ Palace of Fine Arts

World Arts West presents Weekend One of the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, featuring the Chitresh Das Youth Company (North India), Dunsuir Scottish Dancers, Ghungroo Dance Company (North India), Hala Dance (Egypt), Halau Aloha Pume-hana 'O Polynesia (Hawaii), Likha Pilipino Folk Ensemble (Philippines) and RAICES Grupo Folklórico (Mexico). \$22, \$28 & \$36. 2pm & 8pm Sat; 2pm Sun., June 12 & 13, 19 & 20, 26 & 27. Palace of Fine Arts Theater, 3301 Lyon St. (at Bay). Tix: 415-392-4400; www.cityboxoffice.com; www.tickets.com

Mona Caron's Market St. Railway Mural

Dedication party: Muralist Mona Caron publicly unveils The Market Street Railway Mural, her magnificent 12' x 38' creation at 300 Church St. (at 15th St.), a mural depicting a sweeping bird's-eye view of Market Street through different historical events. Free. 4-7pm.

Fauxgirls 3rd Anniversary Gala @ Marlena's

The Producers of En Drag present Fauxgirls! — The Gala Third Anniversary Show, featuring the "Connie and Carla" Contest. Co-hosted by Victoria Secret and the fabulous Alexandria, and featuring the blazing talents of Bliss, Anjelica Devarox, Mini Minerva, Davida, Daffney Deluxe, Nikki Starr and special Guest Stars. Free! (never a cover at Marlena's). Showtime 10pm. 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia). Info: 415-864-6672; www.foxgirls.com

Beach Blanket Babylon 30th Anniversary @ Club Fugazi

Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon commemorates its 30th Anniversary by "Cele-



Editor Mattilda (aka Matt Bernstein Sycamore) leads other readers from *Dangerous Families* at A Different Light Bookstore. See Saturday.

brating the Arts!" A special gala benefits series to support Bay Area arts organizations, including the San Jose Repertory Theatre (June 12, 7pm); Berkeley Repertory Theatre (June 19, 7pm) and Marin Theatre Company (June 26, 7pm). \$75-\$250. 21+ w/ID (minors welcome at Sunday matinees). Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon Blvd. (at Green St.). Tix/info: 415-421-4222; www.beachblanketbabylon.com

Dangerous Families @ A Different Light Bookstore

Editor Mattilda (aka Matt Bernstein Sycamore) presents three dangerous contributors to the groundbreaking new anthology, *Dangerous Families: Queer Writing on Surviving*. Featuring Daphne Gottlieb, Ian Phillips, Jessy Luanni Wolf, and Mattilda herself. Mattilda swears this will be the last reading from *Dangerous Families*, so catch it while you can! Free. 7:30pm. ADLB, 489 Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891.

Neil Kaminsky @ Magnet

Magnet and A Different Light Bookstore present a reading and workshop with author and licensed social worker Neil Kaminsky (When It's Time to Leave Your Lover-A Guide For Gay Men), from his latest book, *Affirmative Gay Relationships-Key Steps in Finding A Life Partner*, about attaining a successful gay male relationship. Free. 6-8pm. 4122 - 18th St. Info: Magnet at 415-581-1600.

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders over the age of 55, will hold their monthly potluck at 12 noon. They also seek volunteers of all ages to be friendly visitors for socially isolated seniors. San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Info/rides from BART: 510-667-9655.

Queer Ballroom Party @ The Center

Queer Ballroom presents "Queer Ballroom Party." No partner or experience needed. 7pm Salsa for beginners. 8pm Hustle for beginners with easy intermediate moves. 9pm-midnight dancing. \$10 (free for those under 21; half off for those taking Mon. or Wed. classes). SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: www.queerballroom.com

Sun 13

San Jose Gay Pride Parade & Festival

Joan Jet and the Blackhearts will be returning to the South Bay as headliners at "Many Faces, One Community," the 2004 San Jose Gay Pride Festival. The Parade begins at 10:30am; celebrants will gather along Market Street in Downtown San Jose to cheer members of the community participating in the 29th Annual Gay Pride Parade. Four local activists will represent different generations as Parade Grand Marshals: Mariano Gotto, Mark Gillard, Barbara Hoppie and Clay Wilson. After the Parade join the more than 12,000 people for the Gay Pride Festival. Joining Jet and her band is freestyle diva Lisa Lisa and comedian Kate Clinton. Local favorites will also perform at the festival including the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus, ProLatino Iotiani Dancers, Lisa Dewey and the Lotus Life and The Cheeseballs, plus lots more on the Main Stage, in addition to a Latino Cultural and Dance Area, the Country Western Dance Area, a new Senior Grove and the popular Community Dance Tent. \$13 at gate (\$10 if purchased at the Free Community Day in the Park on June 12). 11am-7pm. Discovery Meadow, Downtown San Jose. Info: www.sjgaypride.com

Billy DeFrank's Hats Off

The Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center in San Jose welcomes all of the LGBT community to march with them in San Jose's



(a)eromestiza, QueLACo, API Cultural Center and the Queer Cultural Center present *M.U.V.E. @ SomArts*, part of the National Queer Arts Festival. See "Calendare"



Ann P. Meredith's *Strap 'Em Down! The World of Drag Kings* previews at "Art, Sex, Gender & Race — The Drag King Revolution" at SomArts. See "Calendare"

Gay Pride Parade to celebrate "Hats Off," the Grand Opening of the new Billy DeFrank Center building at 938 The Alameda in San Jose. Bring your favorite festive headwear — Top Hat, Cowboy Hat, Baby Bonnet, Sombrero, Carmen Miranda Hat, or bring a \$5 donation to the pre-parade gathering and volunteers will supply you with a beautiful party hat in Pride colors! Gather in the Victory Parking Lot on Market Street at 10am for check-in to begin the march at 10:30am. The center's Grand Opening happens on June 19. Info: 408-293-2429; www.defrank.org

Mon 14

Lisa Geduldig @ Q Comedy

QComedy presents Monday Night Gay Comedy at The Center, hosted by Lisa Geduldig, with Scott Capurro, Betsy Salkind, Reanne Roads, Charlie Ballard, Bob Douglas, Noreen Sullivan, and Bridget Schwartz. Geduldig (www.koshhercomedy.com) has been producing comedy shows in SF for a decade, including the holiday tradition of Kung Pao Kasher Comedy. In October she will be presenting the George Bush Going-Away Party, an evening of pre-election political comedy. \$8-\$15 sliding, cash (NO-TAFLOF). 7:30pm reception; 8pm show. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 415-541-5610; www.QComedy.com

Bruce Vilanch & friends @ Cobbs Comedy Club

Bruce Vilanch, award winning writer, center star of "Hollywood Squares," and the STAR of *Hairspray*, currently at the Golden Gate Theatre, is Master of Ceremonies for a night of comedy benefiting UCSF AIDS Health Project. Featuring political comic Will Durt; Scott Capurro, writer of the hit play "Loaded" and *Alice 97.3* Radio Talk Show host; local fave Tom Smith; the well loved Sabrina Matthews from Comedy Central Presents; and Tom Ammiano, San Francisco Supervisor and hilarious comedian. \$100 VIP Seating (includes two drinks and a post show reception, with some or all of the comedians as their schedules allow); \$50 Preferred Seating (two drink minimum not included); \$35 (two drink minimum not included). Cobbs Comedy Club, 915 Columbus Ave (at Lombard). Tix/info: 415-928-4320; www.cobbscomedy.com



Fresh Meat 2004, The Transgender & Queer Cabaret Extravaganza, opens at ODC Theater on Thursday, June 17. See "Calendare".

Matthew Kennedy @ Limelight Books

Bay Area critic Matthew Kennedy, a frequent contributor to the BAR and other publications, reads from his new book, Edmund Goulding's *Dark Victory*. Hollywood's Genius Bad Boy (University of Wisconsin Press), the first biography of an eccentric genius of early 20th-century filmmaking, Edmund Goulding (1891-1959), the director of *Grand Hotel*, *Dark Victory*, and *The Razor's Edge*. Goulding was a complicated, contradictory man whose notorious orgies, bisexuality, drinking, and drug addictions were whispered about in Hollywood. Free. 5:30pm. Limelight Books, 1803 Market St. Info: 415-864-2265; www.limelight-books.com

Tue 15

Three Dollar Bill Cafe @ The Center

Grand Opening: Three Dollar Bill Cafe. The newest destination at the SF LGBT Community Center, the long-awaited cafe will provide a welcoming space where friends can socialize and enjoy a fine cup of coffee. "Maid of Honor" Donna Sachet hosts tonight's wedding-reception theme party in celebration of same-sex marriage. Enjoy sounds by DJ Anita Lofton, a contact-improv performance by dance ensemble HumilitySwim, an exhibit of artwork by painter Bret Hansen, and a display of images from the exhibition "Spouses for Life: A Wedding Album." A benefit for Equality California (EQCA) and The SF LGBT Community Center. Three Dollar Bill Cafe is privately owned and operated by Vince Constabile and Peter Howells, who were recently married in SF. \$10 (NO-TAFLOF). 7-10pm. Ground floor, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: www.threedollarbill.com

Heather MacRae @ Empire Plush Room

Opening night: Heather MacRae debuts her solo show "Songs for My Father," a tribute to her dad and legendary Broadway star Gordon MacRae. Songs from Oklahoma, Tea for Two, The Desert Song, Carousel and more. Music direction by Barry Lloyd. \$30. 8pm. June 15-27. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 415-885-2800.

Radar Reading @ Main Library

Author/literary diva Michelle Tea hosts the latest installment of her hugely popular "Radar Reading" series at the Main Library. These gigs are always packed, so get there early to get good seats. Featuring writers Jennifer Blowdryer, Anthoni Patel, Mattilda (Matt Bernstein Sycamore) and Marvin White. Free. 6pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

Transpoetry

@ Modern Times Bookstore

Come celebrate the eve of local writer Sheryl Connelly's 31st b-day at Transpoetry, a night of poetry/spoken-word with Connelly (K'vetch; Lit at the Canvas; Wicked Messenger; kittyp0n), Lauren Wheeler (Lodestar Quarterly; Other Magazine) and David West (Manic D; Zeitgeist Press). Free. 7:30pm.

Sacha Sacket @ Club Deluxe

CD Release Party: LA-based singer/songwriter Sacha Sacket plays a concert in support of his second album, *Shadowed*. Free. 8pm. 21+ w/ID. Club Deluxe, 1509 Haight St. (at Ashbury). Info: 323-663-8979; www.sachasacket.com.

Jordan L'Moore @ Trannyshack

Fresh from a fabulous Pepperspray gig at Studio Z, drag diva and vocalist extraordinaire Jordan L'Moore hosts "Pat Benatar Night" at Trannyshack, with an all-out Pat lip-synch war at midnight! Plus: Help Hek-Lina celebrate her birthday! DJ Derek spins tunes. Miss Chocolate at the Door. \$7. 10pm-3am. The Stud, 9th & Harrison.

Wed 16

SF's Literary Neighborhoods @ Main Library

"San Francisco's Literary Neighborhoods." In celebration of the SF Public Library's 125th Anniversary, Michelle Tea, Genny Lim, Rebecca Solnit, Kevin Killian and others read and discuss their work and SF's literary scene. Related exhibition: "Street Festivals of San Francisco" in the Jewett Gallery. Free. 6:30-7:30pm. Koret Auditorium, Main Library, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

Bourgeois

@ Off Market Theater

Alma Esperanza Cunningham Movement, Christine Call, Kook Troupe, and Joe Landini perform: *Bourgeois*, An Evening of Contemporary Dance. Choreographer Joe Landini, Associate Director of Footloose @ Venue 9, has assembled some of SF's most innovative and provocative choreographers for this show. Landini will offer 4 Stories, a dance/theater meditation on pop culture and a beauty-obsessed society, combining elements of post-modernism with athletic movement. \$10. 8pm. 965 Mission St. Info: 415-885-4006 (no reservations); www.bourgeois.homestead.com

Thu 17

Craig Seligman

@ Modern Times Bookstore

Craig Seligman explores the enduring influence of two critics who defined the cultural sensibilities of a generation in *Sontag and Kael: Opposites Attract Me* (Counterpoint). Pauline Kael practiced a kind of verbal jazz, exuberant, excessive, intimate, emotional, and funny. Sontag is formal and a little icy — a model of detachment. The question for Seligman: Can criticism be art? Free. 7:30pm.

Rik Isensee

@ Jon Sims Center

"Lit @ JSC" hosts author Rik Isensee reading and discussing *Spank the Monkey*, a compendium of raucous, fond reminiscences, and irreverent monologues. Isensee is the author of numerous books on psychotherapy and gay culture. He practices psychotherapy in SF. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. Info: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
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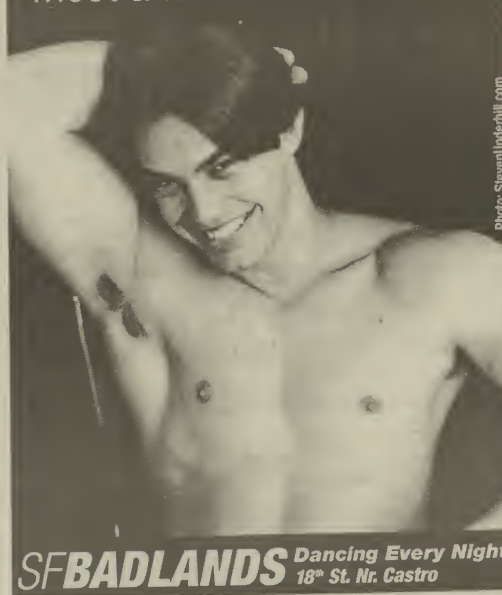


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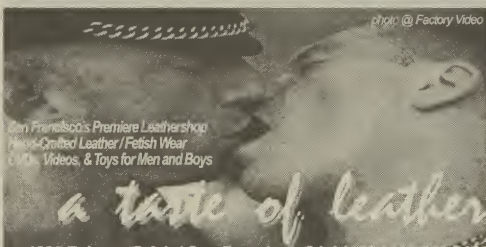
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IML 2004 - The Dish

by Mister Marcus

IML 2004 is history. But what a memory it will always be for thousands who made the trek to the Windy City for the world's biggest and best leather contest!

Under the direction of Bill Stadt, more than 200 volunteers performed magnificently. There were the usual gripes about the prices of drinks at the Chicago Hyatt, but the drinks were hefty too, and the food in the restaurants had redeeming values.

The recent remodeling job on the rooms proved to be excellent, and the maids were only mildly shocked at some of the "equipment" installed in some of the rooms. The Chicago Eagle and the Touché hosted hundreds of celebrants, but alas the Cell Block didn't get open in time for the weekend. I have been advised it will re-open soon by the original owner Roger Hickey, and I was assured that the "faithful" would return when it opens.

The usual "weekend marriages" took place, with both male and female couples (or trios!). It was a very family occasion; there were some very public shouting matches in the dining area of the hotel lobby, about "cheating on me" and "no respect" and "when am I going to get my vest back?" — to name only a few. Most everyone ignored it all. But I never saw so many cell phones in use! The satellites that connect callers were taxed to the extreme, I am sure!

The famous, the not-so-famous, and the wanna-be-famous mingled amiably. At least half a dozen people were devastated to learn their luggage had not arrived when they landed in Chicago. One newbie asked me where he could "rent" some leather in Chicago.

I don't know why, but always at IML one or two gentlemen who were previously known as "tops" made the public declaration that they are now bottoms, and vice-versa. Some people will do just about anything to get laid on IML weekends!

People getting whipped and single-tailed in the lobby added to the general noise level. The hotel staff, while respectful, was on edge. Most people wandering in the crowd greeted these displays with a yawn. Exhibitionism is always rampant at IML.

All the newbies to IML were entranced and in awe. Just by looking at them you could tell they were thinking: "I will be here



Mr. Missouri Leather Ron Walters, left, will team up with Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn for a fundraiser at Daddy's Bar on Saturday afternoon, June 12.

next year!"

Leather, leather everywhere

The leather mart at IML was awesome. If there was any toy you always wanted yet couldn't find, it was there. Leather, leather everywhere, along with porn videos and CDs, accessories and art work. Also whips, chains, bondage equipment and furniture. R.J. Chffin and Bob Graves should own a department store. Leather tailors of every stripe were in attendance and making custom outfits right on the spot while making last minute

"touches" to IML contestant outfits they had created.

There were some heavy duty BIG parties going on too. The San Francisco party boasted a 30-foot high replica of the Golden Gate Bridge that took 3 1/2 hours to put together and 21 pages of instructions thanks to Ken Ferraris's talent. It was also the only party at IML to offer a disco diva, while Bob Brunson and Diva Midori hosted.

Checking in at the hotel was

easy, but what was surprising was the fact that the plastic card keys to your room were emblazoned with a logo for the Folsom Street Fair in San Francisco. Somebody in FSE knows how to publicize the event!

I could go on and on, but I think you get the picture. There were no scandals this time around. Just think of it as "leather heaven," and if you've never been, what are you waiting for?

Julian, Darryll & La Snatch

Last Saturday night, June 5, the hometown welcomed back Mr. San Francisco Leather Julian Marshburn and Mr. Hayes Valley Leather Darryll Jansson in a celebration of leather pride. No raffles, no fees, just a party with La Snatch wowing the crowd.

We welcome back our boys and know they will complete their year with their titles in a prideful, honorable and fun manner. Your support of their efforts is much appreciated.

By the way, know that the new International Mr. Leather, Jason Hendrix, will be here for the Pride

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, June 11-13

Southeast Leather Fest in Atlanta with a \$125 weekend tab. Vendors, play parties, Mr. SE Leatherfest & Boy.

Sunday, June 13

Leather/Levi Weekend beer/soda bust at Daddy's from 1600-2000 for \$7 to benefit "Twisted Summer Camp" at Saratoga Springs.

Thursday, June 17

"Grin & Bare It" night at the Powerhouse from 2000 to 2400 MC'd by Ross Dierking & Carlton Paul. \$5 donation. What? Don't you think Carlton is worth \$5? To benefit the LGBT Center.

Weekend, June 18-20

Big doings in the Big Apple. Leather Pride Night Auction, on Friday, Northeast Leather Sir/boy con-

test and Folsom East on Sunday and Folsom East Street Fair on Sunday.

At the Russian River, Mama's Family Reunion, with headquarters at the Triple R and the Russian River Leather Sir/boy contests.

Friday, June 19

Exiles of SF at the Women's Bldg. Tonight featuring "Sasha" who will expound on "Cock Sucking," with practice demos. Doors open 1939, program from 2000-2200.

Sunday, June 20

No details furnished at my deadline, but a fundraiser for the reelection of Mark Leno is at Daddy's today from 1600 to 2000.

Fathers Day at the Eagle with a beer/soda bust hosted by Tony Koester and Peter Fiske, \$8, with food, entertainment, etc, etc.

PORN

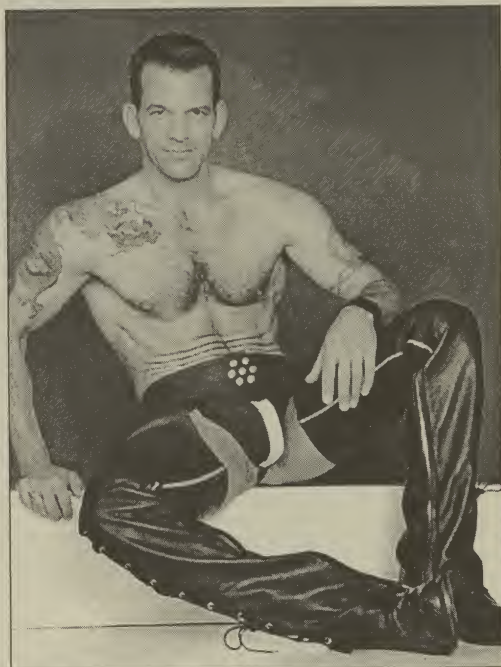
Falcon high and low

by John F. Karr

The much-ballyhooed debut of Gus Mattox is a two-in-one, with the near simultaneous release of one of Falcon's worst movies, *The Recruits*, and one of its best, *Kept*.

At least we haven't been oversold on Mr. Mattox. At an enviably ripe 40, this handsome dude is 6'2" of broad-shouldered, blue-eyed, gorgeously tattooed, and lightly furred he-man, with meaty pecs and bulging biceps. In short, Stud. Maybe it's the deep and stubbled crease in his cheek that lends his face a near-permanent smile, but this daddy seems at the same time both dangerous and delightful. Tough and tender. Like Tom Selleck, but with a big dick. Gus' loose balls swing beneath a cock that's heavily weighted yet standing sturdily upright, and topped with a swell knob that's got a chamois finish. No wonder this hard-driver is one happy boy.

Yet in *Recruits*, Mattox and a first-rate cast seem to have been thrown to the wolves. Or should I say, the Weston. Director Kristopher Weston's previous efforts for Falcon were as weak as this one. He can neither set a scene nor kindle that spark. We're not shown where we are in the opening of *Recruits*, and in his big debut, Gus is neither introduced, set up, nor gloated upon. He's just there. The other stars, who usually give their all, seem rudderless, and most of the life has been edited out of their sex scenes. In the standardized format of each of these, the men do their thing in a variety of positions. You'll like it when they hit your favorite. In the first scene, for instance, I stiffened up when the newbee straddled Gus' dick and bounced; you may go for Gus' deep-poking insertions. But it's checklist movie-making: two minutes of this, four of that, a couple more of the big thing, and



Gus Mattox stars in two new films from Falcon, *The Recruits* and *Kept*.

when the regulated 20 minutes are up: everybody cums! And why the opaque rubbers? I don't want the idea of cock. I want to see cock.

You can buy transparent ones, you know.

For their final test before joining the Special Forces unit, recruits Brad Patton and Cade Devlin must evade capture during a field game.

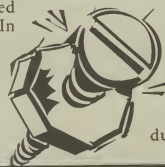
When caught (did you think

they'd get away?), they mustn't give up their password, no matter what is done to them. So fuck suspense. For the fucking they're going to get, you know they'd gladly give up the friggin' code

word — and even bring their own lube. Mattox lavishly demonstrates the sort of thing that can — and will — be done during questioning, by fucking the livin' daylight outa li'l squirt Devlin. Then he lays back and lets the kid bang himself home to the finish. Who ever knew a jockeying boy could write like that?

The field game itself is hysterical, like a sketch from the Carol Burnett show. The supposedly highly trained men run around Golden Gate Park, or the Marin headlands, or wherever they are, in laughably obvious circles. They peer comically from behind trees. Brad jumps over a log. Wow! After he's captured (with hilarious ease), the interrogation scene with Matthew Rush and buddy

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Karrnal Knowledge

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Parade, and next Saturday, June 12, Mr. Missouri Leather, the dashing Ron Walters, will be co-hosting a beer/soda bust benefit at Daddy's in the afternoon with Mr. SF Leather, Julian Marshburn.

Sacramento update

It was contest time in Sacramento this past weekend when the Sacramento Leather Sir and boy were chosen. The Meet & Greet happened on Friday at the Bolt, and the contest took place on Saturday in a warehouse next to Headhunters. A victory brunch was held on Sunday at Faces.

Tony Koester and Scott Brogan MC'd the contest, which yielded Jim Austin, Sacramento Leather Sir, and Jon Lopez, Sacramento Leather Boy. They advance to the Northern California Competition in August.

Finally, the name of the new Int'l. Mr. Bootblack is Alan Tunstall, not as posted last week.

That's a wrap for this week. You can see more photos if you read this column on www.L LeatherPage.com and check out the news from around the country by columnists in other cities. ▼



Jim Austin (standing) was named Sacramento Leather Sir, and Jon Lopez is Sacramento Leather boy. They advance to the Northern Calif. Leather Sir/boy competition at the Russian River in August.

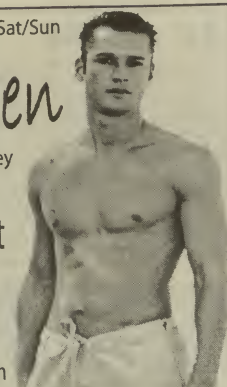
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Falcon films

◀ previous page

promises surly struggle, but quickly devolves into formula. Why all that pretense of resistance and super-masculinity if not followed through? Tormented captives and sadistic sergeants are fine in theory. But half-cooked fantasies and amateur filmmaking aren't masculine. An orgy scene has seven guys breaking in Devlin, and in the finale, Patton is delivered to the sex-hungry sergeant. But like the previous scenes, these are by-the-number, rote, edited to death. The *Recruits* genre is stale, the movie a bad idea badly executed. Meanwhile, Weston has decamped for the company that touts "a famed legacy of no-nonsense masculinity," Colt Studio. Oy vey.

Big entrance

Kept, on the other hand, has been expertly directed by Chi Chi LaRue at the top of his game. The coherent, taut script was written by Chris Steele, from a story by Gerry Morales. Strangely, no editor is credited, but Ross Cannon's videography is excellent. Chad Hunt's cock has never looked bigger, and the entrances it makes to various orifices could cleave the very heavens. The cast of stars looks fabulous, and perform as if inspired. Every inch of this movie sizzles. *Kept* is a keeper.

Josh Weston and Gus Mattox



Gus in *Kept*: hair-raising partying.

have broken up, but can't get over each other. Weston tries, with new lover Kent Larson. Now, if I were either one of these guys, I'd want to stay home with the other forever. No wonder Josh is possessive. Kent has to earn the right to go catting by throwing a thrilling fuck to Josh, who responds with super sluttishness. Roisterous music propels their abandon, and the camera feasts on length, depth, wide-open, slambang, and loose. It's torrid, my pretties, torrid.

Meanwhile, Gus does some hair-raising partying with Chad Hunt and that devouring demon, Jeremy Jordan. It's strange: while Jeremy can just barely wrap his fist

around Chad's barrel-like cock, the whole humongous thing fits in his mouth. Bless those elastic lips, baby. I loved the little jiz-spot you can see on Jeremy's tighty-whites when the boys pull down his trousers. The camera doesn't seem to notice, but I see all. I tell you, I am watching. And I couldn't wait to watch Jeremy's tiny heinie engulf Chad's better half. But wait—they're interrupted when three other hotties arrive to glom together in a tightly-focused orgy.

Josh arrives when it's all over, and has a bittersweet though unsuccessful reunion with Gus. Back at home, he finds Kent wrapping up a salacious threeway with handsome Leo Brumm and surprisingly versatile studpup Bobby Williams, who ends up the middle man in an exciting fuck-chain. Although both his boyfriends do their share of steppin' out, Josh realizes his heart lies with Gus. This time, their reunion is touching, romantic, and then, oh joy, nasty as all get out. Josh's anus performs heart-stoppingly.

Though their marital difficulties are unresolved, the boys are at least back together. I'd suggest that in the future, they go to orgies as a pair. The family that strays together—well, at least plays together. As the hot action demands, Falcon's allowed some extended scene lengths in *Kept*, which clocks in at an hour and three-quarters. Why not two hours? If they'd dish it out, I'd take it. *Falconstudios.com*; (800) 227-3717 ▼

Keeping Score

◀ page 35

scorecards.

The rehearsals are also shown as an intense process that relies heavily on the rapport between conductor and players. Since time is of the essence, everyone must come to the stage well-prepared. Orchestra librarians for the musicians transfer notes from MTT's timeworn score. Body language and verbal shorthand take care of other interpretive details.

The Tchaikovsky score is deeply Russian in temperament, allowing the conductor a reminis-

cence of his Russian Jewish roots. What a fabulous storyteller he is! Russian orchestra members First Chair Violinist Alexander Barantschik and Second Violin section-player Zoya Leybin also share their own touching insights.

By the time of opening night, the excitement is palpable, and it's fun to share in the nervous electricity backstage. Of course, snippets of the performance reveal a triumph in the making. They also whet the appetite for the second part of the broadcast, an uninterrupted rendition of the entire score.

PBS is presenting the show as part of their prestigious *Great Per-*

formances series, and many viewers will probably tune in based on that fact alone. Missing the entertaining and engrossing *The Making of a Performance* would be a real shame.

The more we can learn about a great work of art only intensifies and illuminates the experience. The premiere of *Keeping Score: MTT on Music* signals the beginning of a landmark educational series that holds heartening promise in these treacherous times. ▼

Visit the website,
www.keeping-score.org.

Orpheus on disc

◀ page 35

seatbelts music-theater.

The uniformly fine cast is headed by some of the best young musicians on the opera scene, including Natalie Dessay (La Musica), Patrizia Ciofi (Euridice), Véronique Gens (Proserpina), Christopher Maltman (Apollo), and capped by a spine-tingling *Messagera* from Alice Coote that showed me what her recital CD hadn't. This is a singer to freeze you in your seat. The relative unknowns that fill out the cast won't stay that way long.

But the news is Ian Bostridge's Orfeo. Bostridge, of course, is anything but news. Yet even for him, this Orfeo is remarkable singing. He negotiates the wicked, 17th-century ornaments as though they were in his mother's milk, and the pay-off is stupendous. You care,

deeply, about this Orpheus from his first utterance. Then, when it counts most, as Orfeo demonstrates the power of music to raise the dead with the extended aria "Possente Spirto," Bostridge unleashes a rippling torrent of finely honed yet extravagantly expressed feeling that would make Lazarus leap up. If you don't surrender to the power of that music, perhaps you should try Parcheesi.

In the Louvre

In the indecipherably weird way of the record companies, the second-most famous Orpheus opera, Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice*, has appeared almost simultaneously. This Archiv CD, of the 1774 Paris version, is even more appropriately French, with Marc Minkowski leading his estimable Les Musiciens du Louvre. Regrettably, it's also galling, the more so in the wake of that hot-to-the-touch Orfeo.

Minkowski and his band are in fit fiddle, and supply as much verve as refined musical thought. Still, after Monteverdi's treatment, the piece itself sounds fey, and the singing by Richard Croft (Orphée) and Mireille Delunsch (Eurydice) is a fallen soufflé.

Shortly before her Orfeo, Haim led a Virgin Veritas CD of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (England's first great opera) in an accomplished performance with Susan Graham and Bostridge in the title roles. Everything's right about it, down to the coven of the nastiest, most knee-slappingly funny witches on record.

Still, an indefinable missing something reminded me that *Dido* was written for amateurs. The "Remember me" I'll remember longest was by a black high-school junior who found out she had a voice a month before she sang Dido at music camp. Her audience, rightly, wept openly. ▼

Ballett Frankfurt

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perform the difficult, dangerous, physically and mentally exacting routines Forsythe requires.

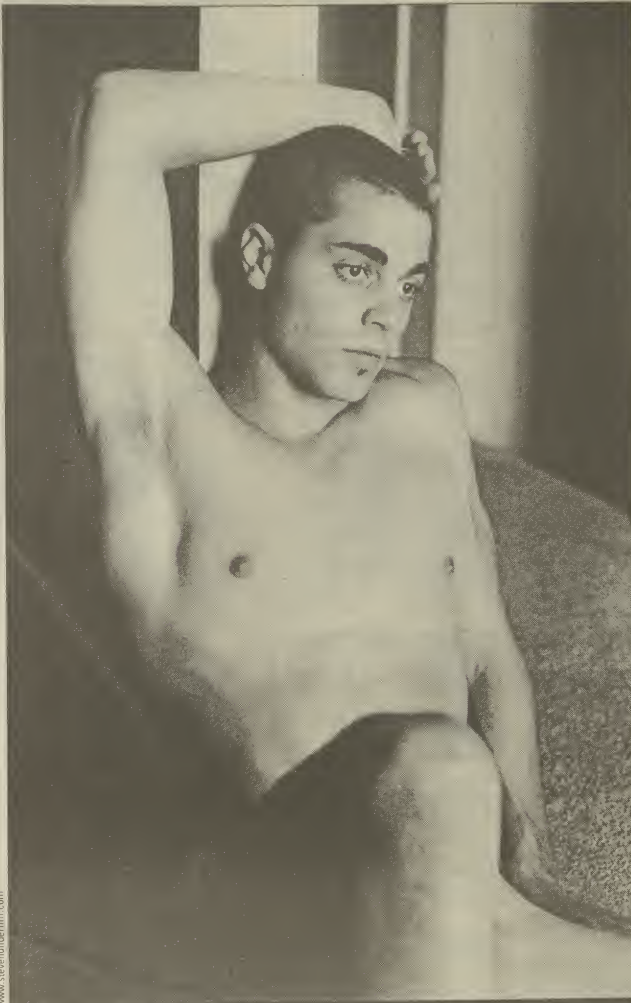
In the opener, "The Room As It Was" (2002), with no musical cues, a large black dancer swings

his arms lethally at smaller men and women who miraculously avoid being decapitated. Just thinking about the bumps and bruises from rehearsals gives me chills. In "One Flat Thing," they all go full-out for 17 minutes of slam-dancing intensity, and nobody is bleeding at the end. They don't even look exhausted, but I

was.

Whatever it is that Forsythe does to train and maintain this quality of dance, the 53-year-old choreographer must be allowed to continue. When his new company is up and running, let us hope that Cal Performances gets in on the ground floor of its first US tour. ▼

BAR TALK



PARTING GLANCES

Philippe at the Ballet May 5
I was on crutches. You were sorry the season was ending. I was sorry you left so abruptly (he's not my boyfriend). I hope you'll call before next year. ☎ 71110

Sensual Pleasure For Seniors
I'm a 48 yo WM and I enjoy giving sensual oral pleasures to very mature men. Heavy sex/stocky, bearded, kissers, cuddlers are pluses but all welcome. Not into gay scene or lifestyle. ☎ 71112

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

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Oscar Wilde Said A Cynic Knows
the price of everything and the value of nothing. Do you know the value of Boccaccio, Cervantes, Shakespeare, Trollope? Human nature transcends eras. Care to share some with me? ☎ 71300

Santa Rosa Native
SWM, 43, 5'10". Redhead ex-navy, 180 lbs. Enjoys running, tennis, travel, chess & talk radio. Seeks relationship. ☎ 71301

Sexy Muscular Asian ISO GWM
Inshape friendly guy here seeks BIWM/GWM who is masculine, inshape hairy a plus, HIV- to date on a regular basis. ☎ 71302

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Seeking LTR w/Another In-shape
guy. I want a 'lover', not a 'fuck buddy'. I'm 48, 5'9", 150#, gym toned, smooth, nice cock, tight ass, great smile, tan, buzz cut, shaved balls, safe, sane, financially secure, artist, business owner, into Zen, Yoga, all arts, working out. Happy except for one thing. I want a week-end lover (I live in Sonoma). During the week we each live our busy lives, looking forward to the wknd when we can be together. ☎ 71307

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Wine Country Living
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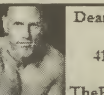
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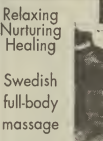
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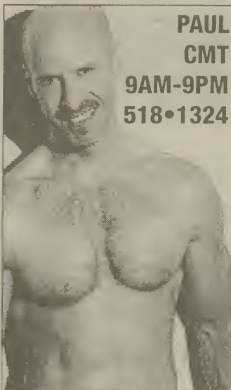
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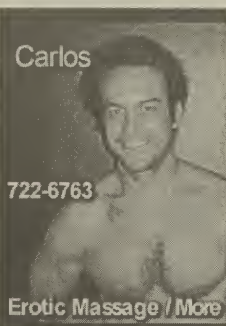
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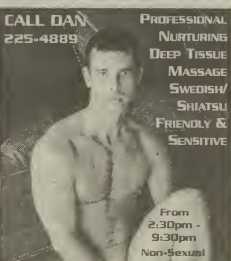
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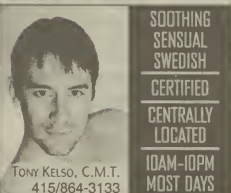
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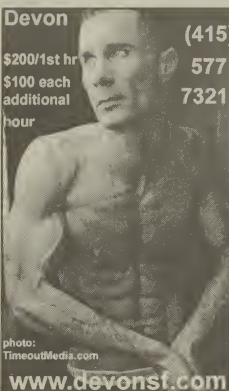
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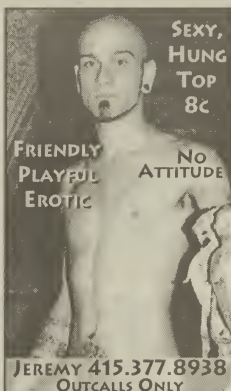
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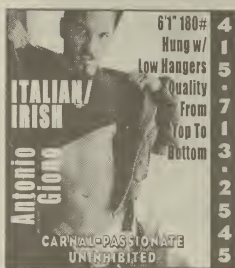
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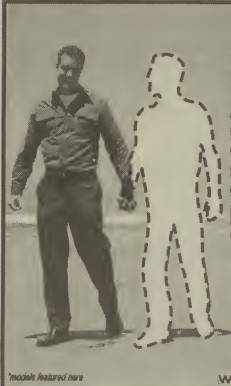
Husband Wanted*

We represent a handsome GWM, HIV-, age 51, 6'0" with brown hair & eyes with a muscular build. As a physician in San Francisco, he loves travel, good food, volunteering, independent films and dogs. He's looking for a man in his 30's to 40's, slim, energetic, and adventurous. Are you warm, caring and spiritually aware? If you enjoy watching pro-football that's a plus! Respond to Ad Code 2563. (Never a charge to respond- FREE)

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- ☐ Money Order
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

3 Digit Security Code

Signature

Name

Expiration Date

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Address

City

Number of Issues

Classification

Telephone

State

Zip

Amount Enclosed

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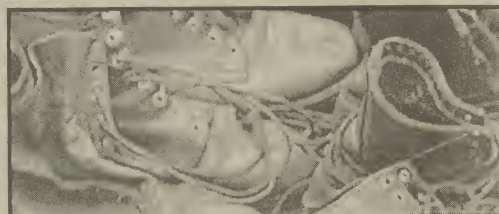
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